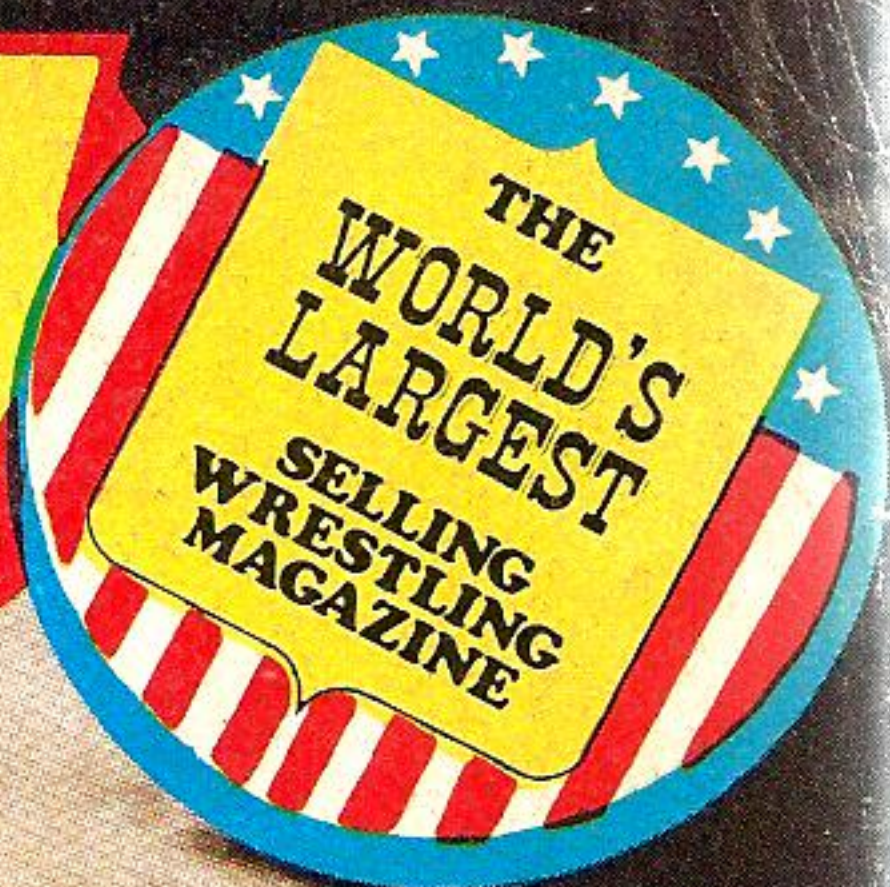


APRIL 1980

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Wrestling WREVUE



**LORD
JONATHAN
BOYD,
'RASSLIN'
ROYALTY**

**DIXIE
PINERO,
KING of
NEW YORK**

**AN INSIDE LOOK
AT MATDOM'S
'MAD DOG'**

**A PENNY
FOR YOUR
THOUGHTS**

**HISTORY
OF THE WWF
Part III**



Wrestling REVUE

APRIL, 1980
VOLUME 21, NO. 2

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LORD JONATHAN BOYD, 'RASSLIN' ROYALTY By Allan Bolte	6
WRESTLING REVUE RATINGS	12
DOWN MEMORY LANE By Gene Gordon	14
<i>Penny Banner was one of the all-time greats of women's wrestling, and even though she retired in 1973, her popularity lingers on. So, here's a photographic essay of the blonde bombshell herself.</i>	
WWF NEWS & VIEWS By Frank Amato	20
AN INSIDE LOOK AT MATDOM'S 'MAD DOG' By Robert J. Ruiz	24
WEST VIRGINIA WILDNESS By Brian Hildebrand	28
WHY JOE LOUIS TURNED WRESTLER By Allen F. Long	32
INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING SCENE By Tom Burke	35
APARTMENT HOUSE WRESTLING	40
DIXIE PINERO, KING OF NEW YORK By Lawrence J. James	44
MATDOM MIRTH By Mike Bellew	48
HISTORY OF THE WWWF By Sandy Krebs	50
<i>Do you know who has had the shortest reign as World Wide Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion, and whose record he broke? You'll find the answers to these questions and a lot more in Part III of our four-part series on the WWWF.</i>	
GRAPPLING'S JACK OF ALL TRADES By Gary Ballard	58
WRESTLING REVUE MAIL BAG	62

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the tremendous volume of mail we receive we can no longer give personal answers to inquiries. In the future we will select the most important letters and answer them if necessary in our "letters to the editor" section.

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The Royal Kangaroos, Lord Jonathan Boyd (right) and his cousin Norman Frederick Charles III.

LORD JONATHAN BOYD, 'RASSLIN' ROYALTY

By ALLAN BOLTE

"I have defeated a lot of highly rated wrestlers throughout the last few years and my match tonight will result in another victory," Lord Jonathan Boyd said as he laced his boots.

"Alberto Madril is a pretty darned good wrestler, I admit. But, he could never defeat 'the Lord.' I have defeated wrestlers equally as capable as Madril. I'll defeat him in two straight falls."

Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium was jammed with thousands of anxious mat buffs ready to witness the big event. Boyd had stated on televised interviews that he would be rougher than ever with Madril, that the Mexican would never again wrestle after Boyd finished with him.

Madril, however, has a large

following of fans in the Southern California area. They back him all the way and under no condition would they want to see their favorite, Madril, lose to a grappler they dislike as much as Boyd.

The smiling Mexican jogged to ringside, leaped over the top rope and entered the ring. Virtually every spectator in attendance clapped and cheered for Madril.

Moments later, the long-haired Australian strutted down the aisle with his boomerang, climbed into the ring and smiled. Boos and jeers was all that could be heard. Instantly he became enraged and shouted obscenities at ringsiders. The fans couldn't care less — they hated Boyd and that was final.

After both wrestlers were intro-

duced the bell rang. Boyd approached Madril, tripped him and applied a full nelson. Madril was near the ropes so the referee ordered a clean break. Boyd co-operated and fans were surprised. Normally, Boyd goes out of his way to break rules whenever he feels he can get away with it.

Madril appeared to be skeptical of his foe and with good reason, Boyd has injured several top challengers and some spent great lengths recovering in hospitals. Madril wasn't about to let his roughneck challenger get the best of him.

Moments passed and the two continued grappling with a scientific style. Fans seemed to be surprised. Was Boyd trying to lure Madril into a trap? They had never seen Boyd wrestling by the rules. They were leery of his new attitude.

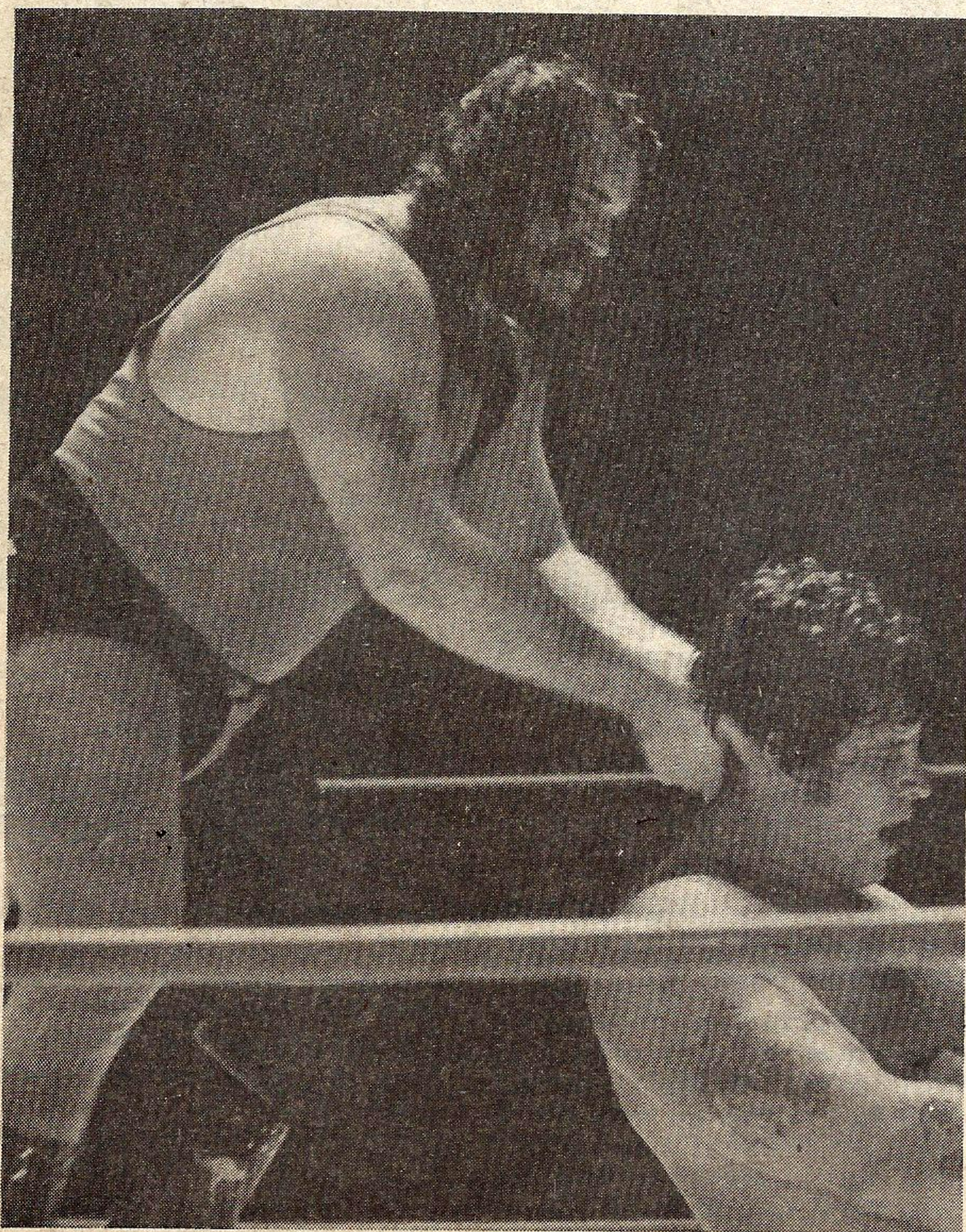
Again both participants contacted and the referee ordered another clean break. Madril responded and when he raised his hands to break, Boyd lifted his knee and drove it into Madril's midsection, doubling him over. When he fell to the mat in pain, Boyd put the boots to him, kicking and stomping him as Madril tried vainly to rise to his feet. Boyd then applied a choke hold and the referee warned him if he didn't break the hold he would automatically be disqualified.

Boyd released the hold and continued working over his opponent. Fans were cheering for Madril but it appeared to do him no good. A moment later Boyd won the first fall in seven minutes, 32 seconds.

Action resumed for the second fall and Madril was ready for him. Boyd ran into a fist to his midsection and the popular Mexican continued dishing out punishment. In under four minutes, he pinned Boyd to even things up.

The fans were on the edge of their seats as the bell sounded to start the third and final — and most important — fall. The participants fought like wild animals and the referee had a heck of a time attempting to restore order. Both men were breaking rules left and right and the third man in the ring didn't like it a bit.

Boyd began biting Madril on his face then proceeded to pull his hair. Repeatedly the referee warned him about the illegal rough stuff and Boyd paid no attention. He conti-



Although he's capable of wrestling scientifically, Boyd usually resorts to dastardly deeds such as nerve holds to the neck with Tony Garea the victim this time.

nued working over his opponent. Boyd then threw Madril through the ropes onto the hard, wooden press table. He banged Madril's head into the table three times, opening a cut on his forehead and drawing blood. Moments later, the bell rang. Both wrestlers had been counted out of the ring. Since neither managed to re-enter to beat the count, the bout was a draw.

"Boyd should have been disqualified," a ringsider insisted. "I have been coming to these matches regularly for years and I have never seen an animal as dangerous as Boyd. He should be banned from wrestling. There is no excuse for his antics."

In his dressing room after the match the tired, perspiring Boyd threw his boots against the locker room door. "I should have won that match. The American referees are prejudiced against wrestlers from foreign countries and this is proof. I had Madril beaten and there's no doubt about it. I should have been the winner. I want a rematch with no count-outs. Lock a wire cage around the ring, I don't care. I just want another bout with him."

Boyd was born in Australia where he participated in various sports throughout his childhood and school. He was always in demand by coaches in high school, as they requested his participation in as many sports as possible. The coaches wanted strength, ability, muscle and brains in him as an athlete. High school sports papers constantly were interviewing him for profile articles regarding his accomplishments in sports.

At the age of 20 Boyd decided to take up wrestling professionally. The sport never was a stranger to him as he had watched wrestling on television since he was eight years old.

"I always loved wrestling but never really gave much thought to entering it professionally," Boyd said. "I knew I was big and strong, but the thought never hit me. I finally decided to contact a local promoter when some friends jokingly said I should be a wrestler because I had the size, strength and desire."

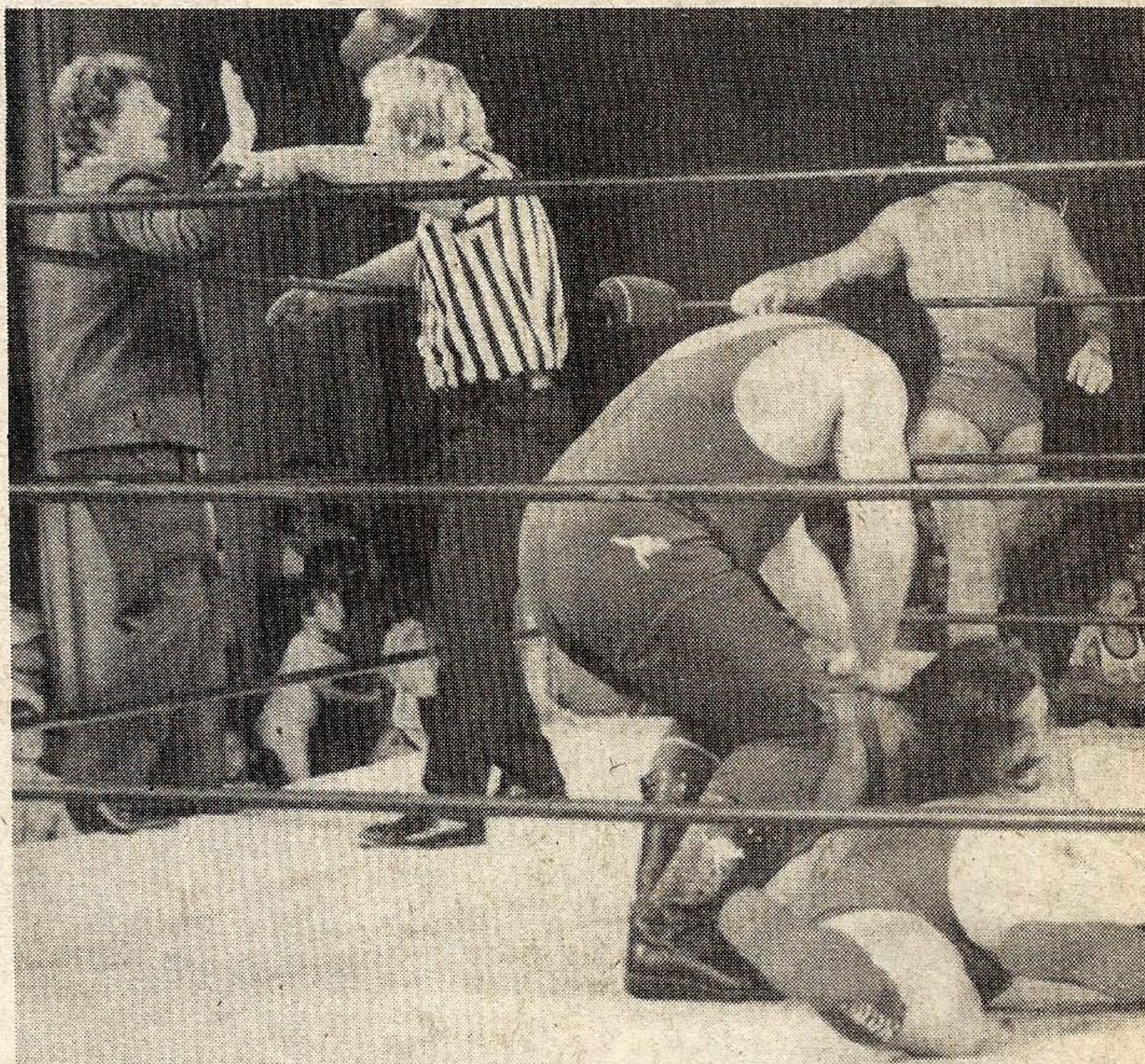
"I pretty much took care of 'number one' and no one really gave me much push, I had to do everything on my own. For example, the promoter really didn't take that much interest in me. He said there

were plenty of wrestlers around and that competition was tough. If I pumped the weights and contacted him in a few months he would see what he could do."

As Boyd looks back over the start of his career he is glad the promoter finally agreed to let him have a match.

"He was surprised when I returned to the gym, where he often recruited wrestlers, a few months later. I weighed 232 solid pounds and had a match with a coach right there in the gym. The promoter was really impressed and said he would give me a chance."

"I admit I lost my first few matches but I learned more in my first few bouts than I have in the last four years of my career," Boyd admitted.



While the referee is distracted, the Royal Kangaroos practice one of their specialties, double-teaming a helpless opponent.

"I learned in a hurry that you have to be tough in the ring. Wrestling is a man's sport — if you're not a tough man you don't belong in that ring."

Boyd is famous for teaming with his cousin, Norman Fredrick Charles III. Together, the two are known as The Royal Kangaroos and held the world tag-team championship for several months, defeating top teams throughout the country.

"I prefer wrestling in tag teams," Boyd said. "Charles is my favorite tag partner and I have had quite a few wrestlers in my corner. There is no partner as capable as he. His attitude and style are similar to mine, and that's what I like about him. What's more, he is tough. Damned tough."

"Often promoters want me to wrestle in single matches so I do whenever they wish. I am just as capable alone."

"I don't mind wrestling alone in single matches as long as I am booked against a top challenger. I don't want to oppose someone who I know I could defeat with ease. I enjoy a tough match. Don't forget, the tougher the opponent usually means the closer I am to the main event, if not in the main event. When you

wrestle in the main event you make more money, particularly if you win. I always win and that's why I make good money and am considered wealthy."

Speaking of money, that's one thing Boyd loves. Particularly when you're talking about plenty of it. With money I can enjoy nice cars, the best foods and beautiful women. I want the finer things in life and

money gives them to me. Winning my matches gets me top money."

Boyd is proud of his accomplishments with Charles as the Royal Kangaroos, they have defeated challenging tandems throughout California, Nevada, Texas and Tennessee. Boyd admits they have had some tough matches but still feels they are the greatest team in the country.

At this writing, Boyd was planning a two-month vacation but Charles will continue wrestling in single matches. The two are planning on joining forces again when Boyd returns from his vacation.

"We are both in great demand by promoters," Boyd said. "So we have little time for recreation or to indulge in our hobbies. But we don't mind as long as we are making good money.

"It isn't easy being a pro wrestler. It usually means rising early in the morning, even if we had a match late the previous night. Right away it's time to hit the gym for an hour or two and take care of any paper or

booking work back at home or in the motel. After lunch it's usually time to hit the road for the next town. That night may be a match, then back on the road for our next match.

"Like I say, it isn't easy but I was cut out for it, I was meant to live the life and I love it. I don't regret a minute of it, not even the broken bones every pro wrestler suffers from time to time."

Boyd is proud of his Australian heritage. He still speaks with a heavy Australian accent and as far as he is concerned wrestlers from Down Under are far superior to American grapplers. He never hesitates to mention this during televised interviews and this is another reason for his unpopularity with the fans — Boyd's lack of patriotism.

But, as Boyd puts it, he doesn't care what the fans think of him, as long as they continue to pay to see him in action.

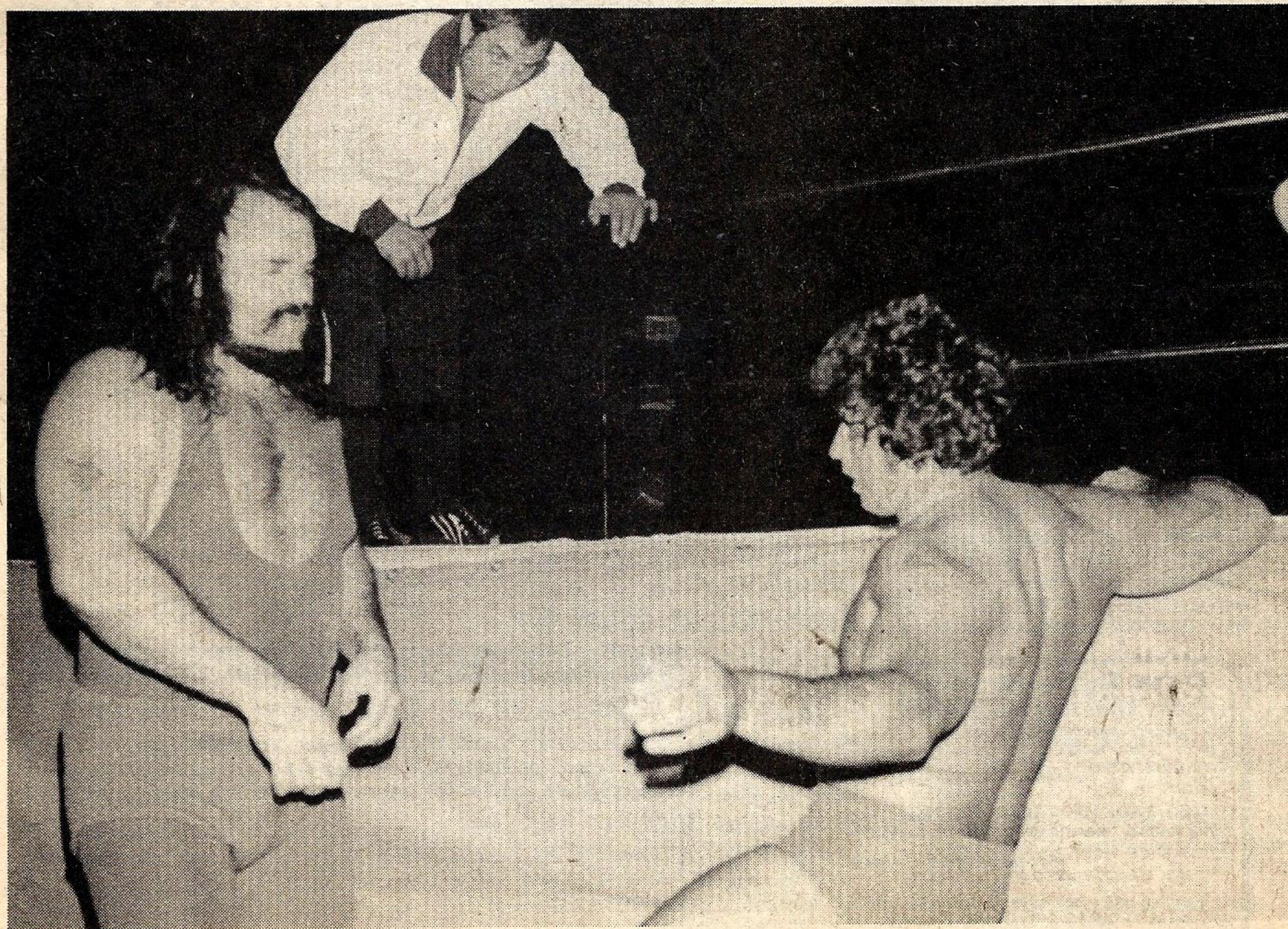
Boyd has wrestled successfully throughout the United States as well

as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Japan. He admits the competition is toughest in Australia and the U.S.

On several occasions, Boyd has attempted to follow the rules in the ring. Admittedly, he has the ability to handle opponents with ease by following the rules. He is a master of headlocks, leglocks, takedowns and rollovers but he seldom utilizes such holds. As far as he is concerned, hitting and kicking is the only way to go about the task of winning a match.

Still, Boyd sometimes tries following the rules and his new attitude often remains with him for a matter of months. Then, seemingly overnight, he will tire of following the rules and will resort to breaking them again. He is extremely unpredictable.

He had made one prediction — he and his cousin, as The Royal Kangaroos, will join forces to win back the world tag-team championship. They will chase the champions until the belts are again strapped around their waists.



The has spread outside the ring and Boyd (left) admires his handiwork as Tony Garea staggers after a two-fisted assault.

wrestling revue ratings

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION Nick Bockwinkle

1. Billy Robinson
2. Verne Gagne
3. Greg Gagne
4. Jim Brunzell
5. Ray Stevens
6. Pat Patterson
7. Super Destroyer I
8. Bobby Duncum
9. Larry Hennig
10. Crusher

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION Harley Race

1. Dusty Rhodes
2. Ric Flair
3. Andre The Giant
4. Mr. Wrestling II
5. Ken Patera
6. Rick Steamboat
7. Wahoo McDaniel
8. King Curtis
9. Jim Garvin
10. Mike Graham

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION Bob Backlund

1. Pat Patterson
2. Dick (Bulldog) Brower
3. Greg Valentine
4. Hossien Arab
5. Ted DiBiase
6. Ivan Putski
7. Peter Maivia
8. Steve Travis
9. Jimmy Valiant
10. Tito Santana

TOP TAG TEAMS

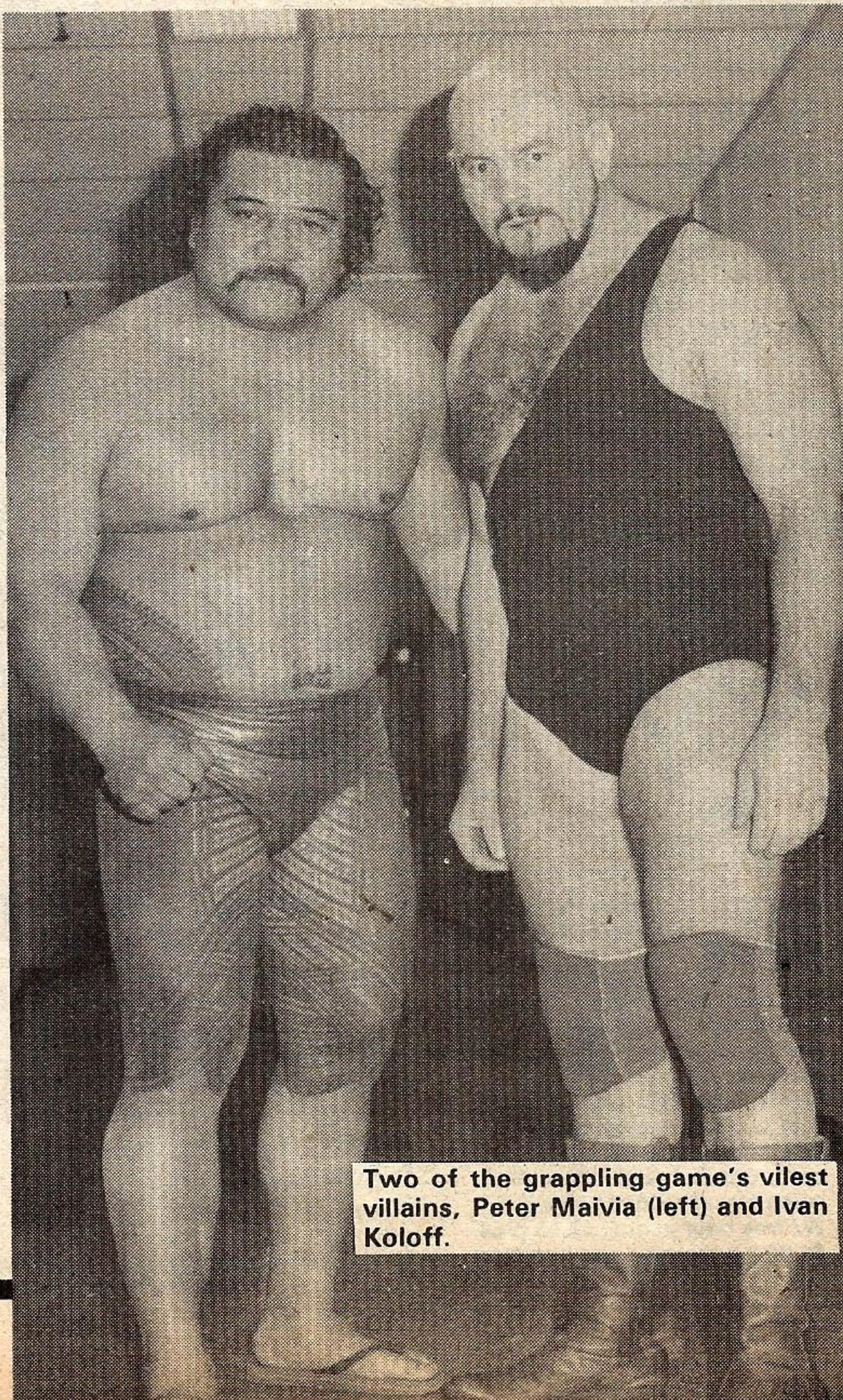
1. Valiant Brothers, Jerry and Johnny
2. Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens
3. Mike Graham and Steve Keirn
4. Ole Anderson and Ivan Koloff
5. Mike Lewin and The Spoiler
6. Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne
7. Wahoo McDaniel and Tommy Rich
8. Jack and Jerry Brisco
9. Leroy Brown and Ed Mansfield
10. Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko

MOST POPULAR PERFORMERS

1. Andre The Giant
2. Dusty Rhodes
3. Ivan Putski
4. Rick Steamboat
5. Mr. Wrestling II
6. Mil Mascaras
7. Bob Backlund
8. Dino Bravo
9. Wahoo McDaniel
10. Billy Robinson

VILEST VILLAINS

1. Greg Valentine
2. Dick (Bulldog) Brower
3. Paul Jones
4. Ric Flair
5. Ernie Ladd
6. Peter Maivia
7. Masked Superstar
8. Abdullah The Butcher
9. The Sheik
10. Ivan Koloff



Two of the grappling game's vilest villains, Peter Maivia (left) and Ivan Koloff.

Down Memory Lane

a PENNY for your thoughts

By GENE GORDON

It's been almost seven years since Penny Banner retired from the wrestling ring.

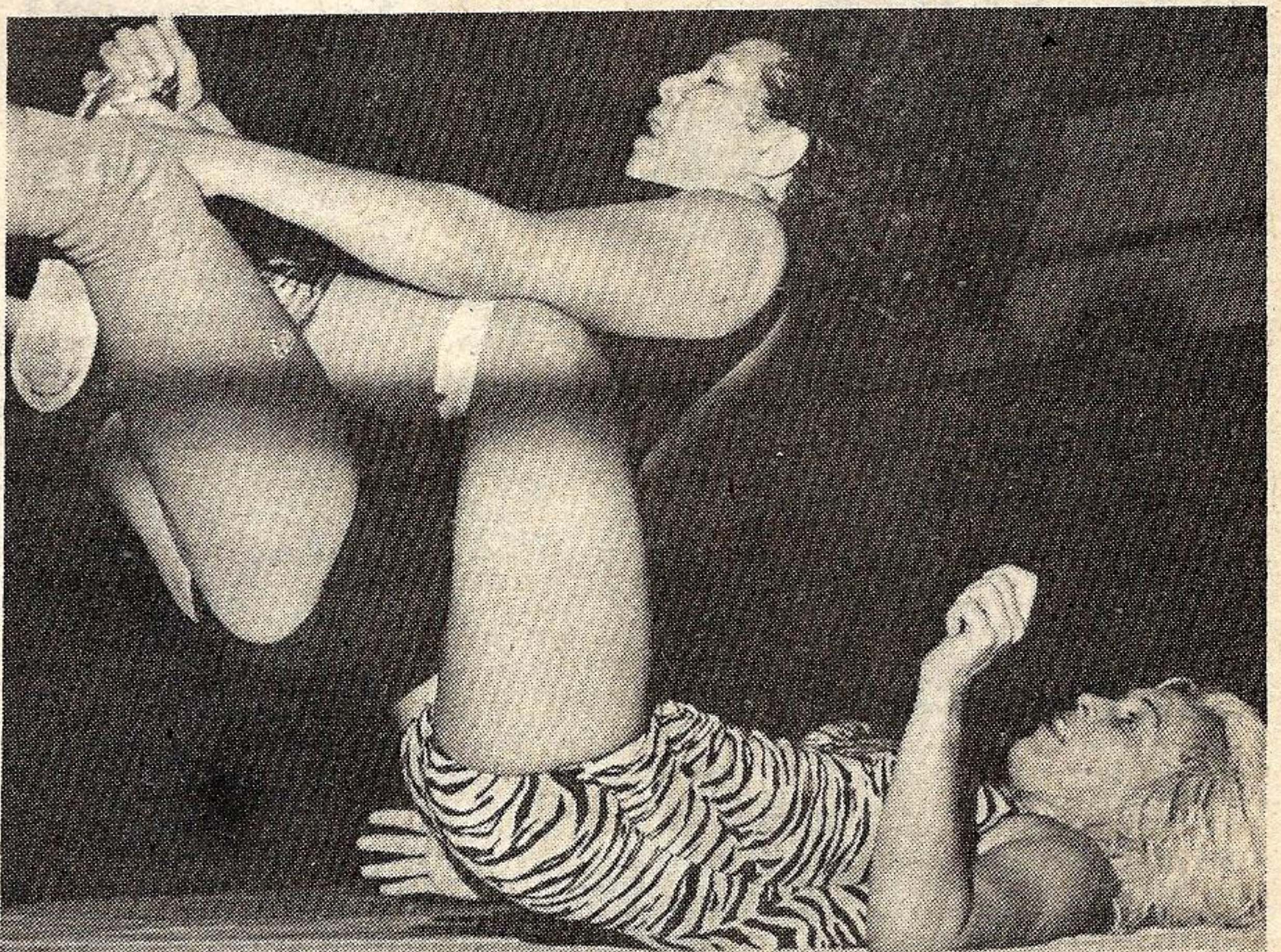
Yet, our readers still write, asking for photos and/or stories on the blonde bombshell.

As well as being one of the all-time great girl grapplers in her heyday, Penny may well have been the most popular performer in the history of women's wrestling. (That's if the mail we get at Fax Publishing and that sent to our correspondents, like Gene Gordon, is any indication.)

So, to satisfy Penny Banner fans everywhere, here's a photographic essay of just some of the highlights on Penny's career.

We're happy to report that since calling it a career as a wrestler, Penny has enjoyed success in a new career as a real estate agent in Charlotte, N.C.

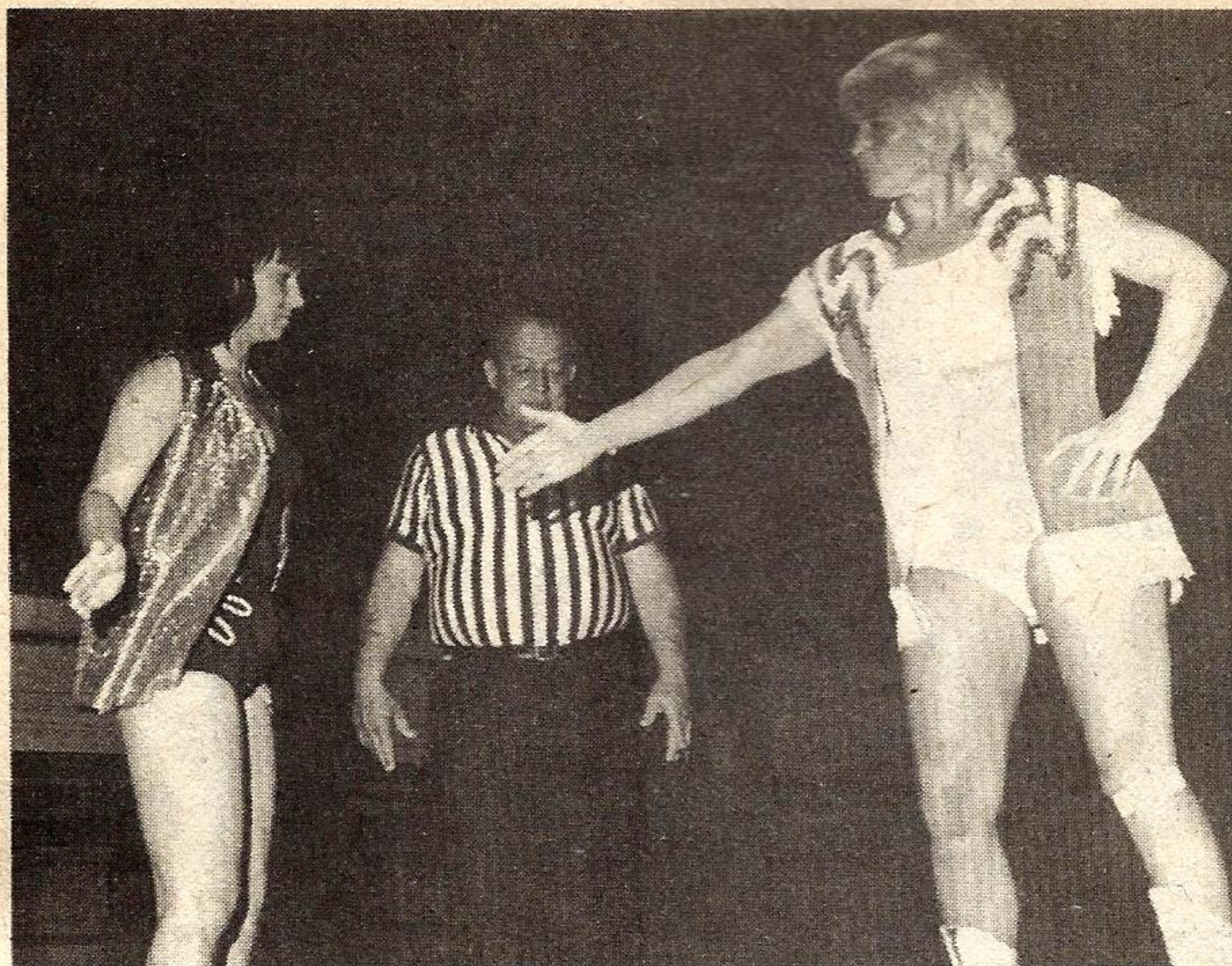
Penny is happily retired, and, though it doesn't seem possible, she has a daughter, Wendy, who is now in college.



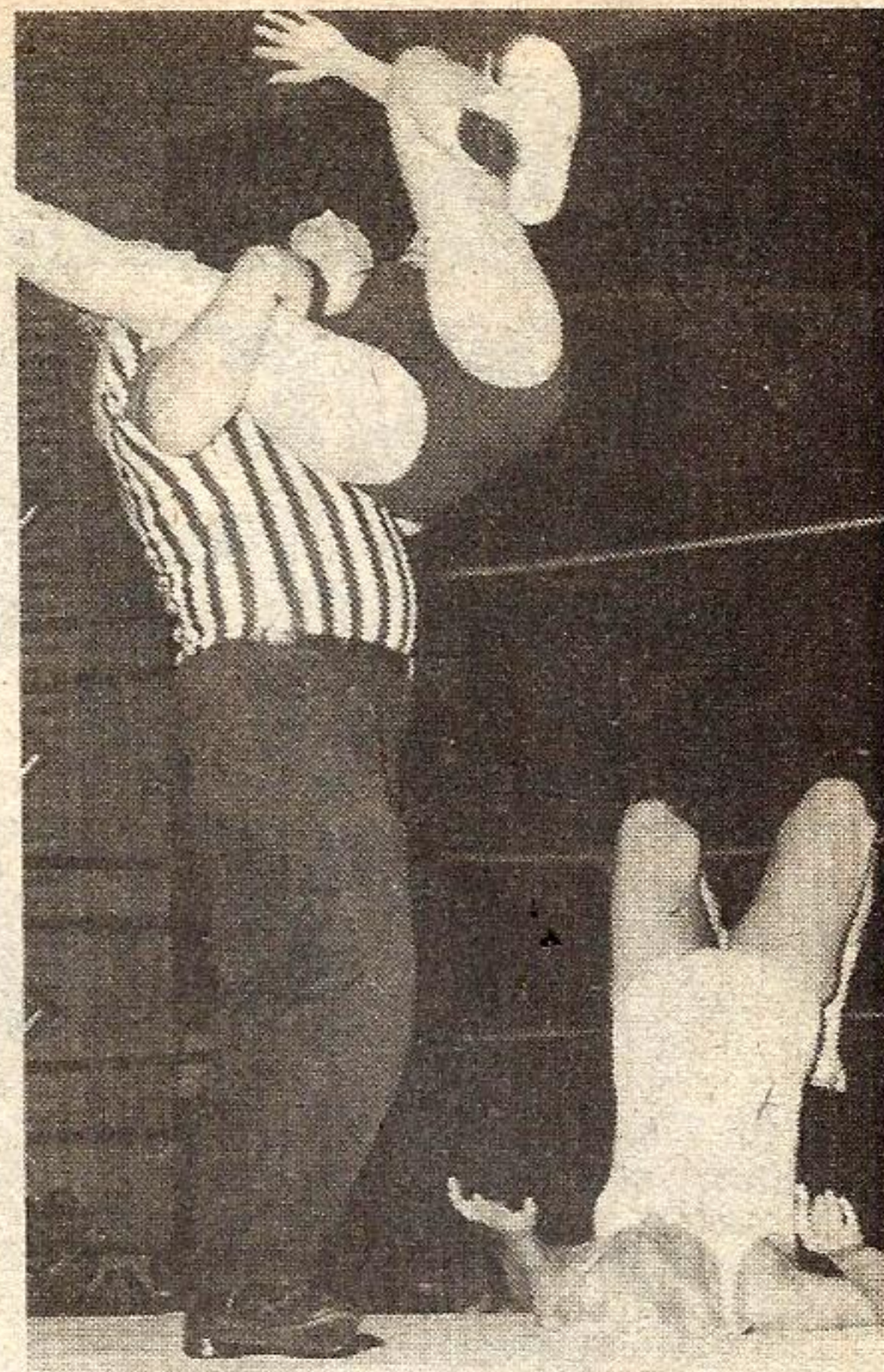
Here's two of the greatest women wrestlers of all time as the Fabulous Moolah is about to discover there's more bounce to the ounce after getting a lift from Penny Banner.



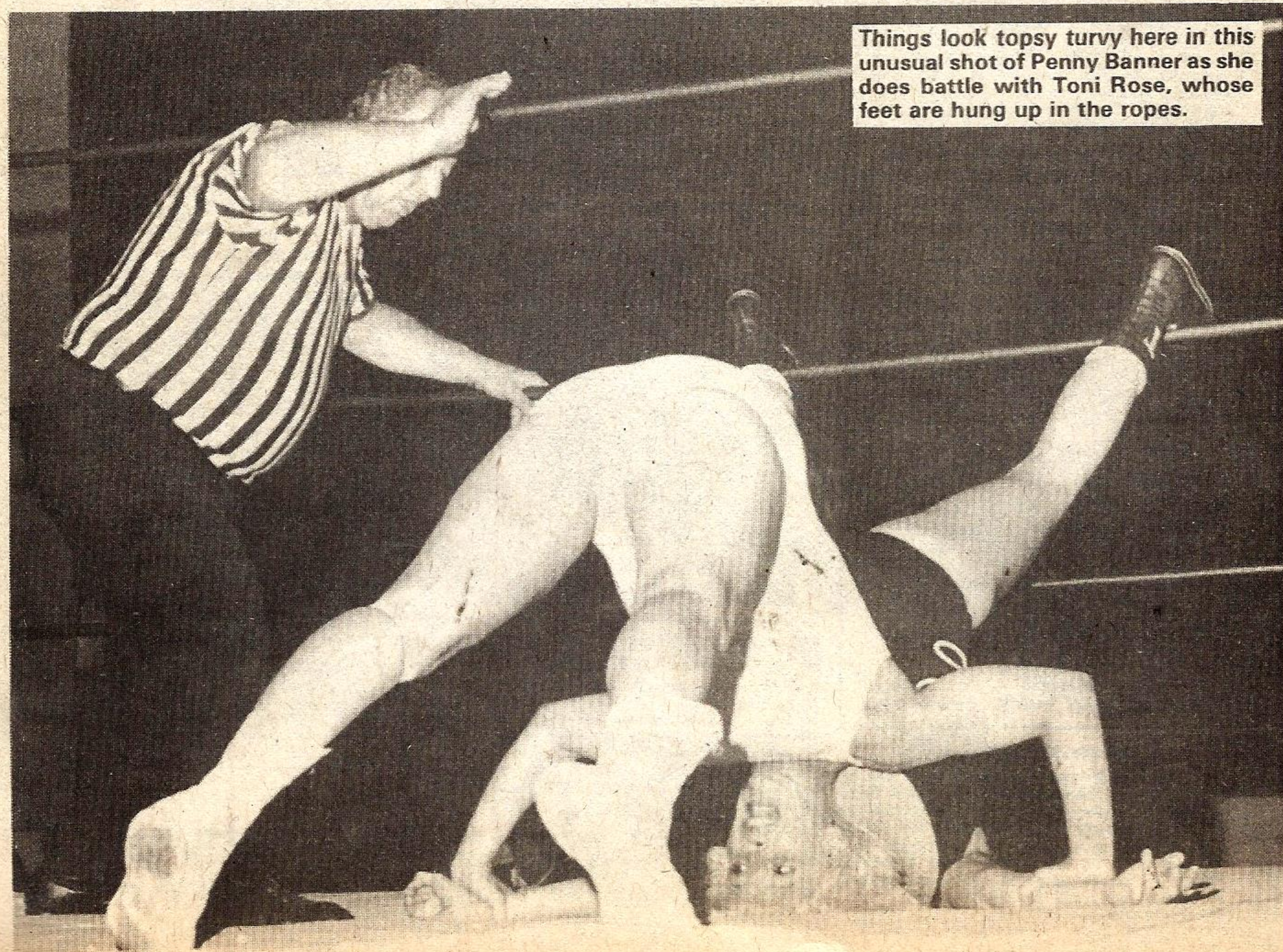
Tami Jones is the unfortunate victim as Penny applies a sitting surfboard hold.



Toni Rose (left) refuses to shake hands with Penny Banner prior to a match. The referee is the late Lucky Roberts.



Although Penny Banner's legs are draped over the ropes, Toni Rose refused to break her hold. So, referee Lucky Roberts simply took matters into his own hands and hauled Toni away.



Things look topsy turvy here in this unusual shot of Penny Banner as she does battle with Toni Rose, whose feet are hung up in the ropes.

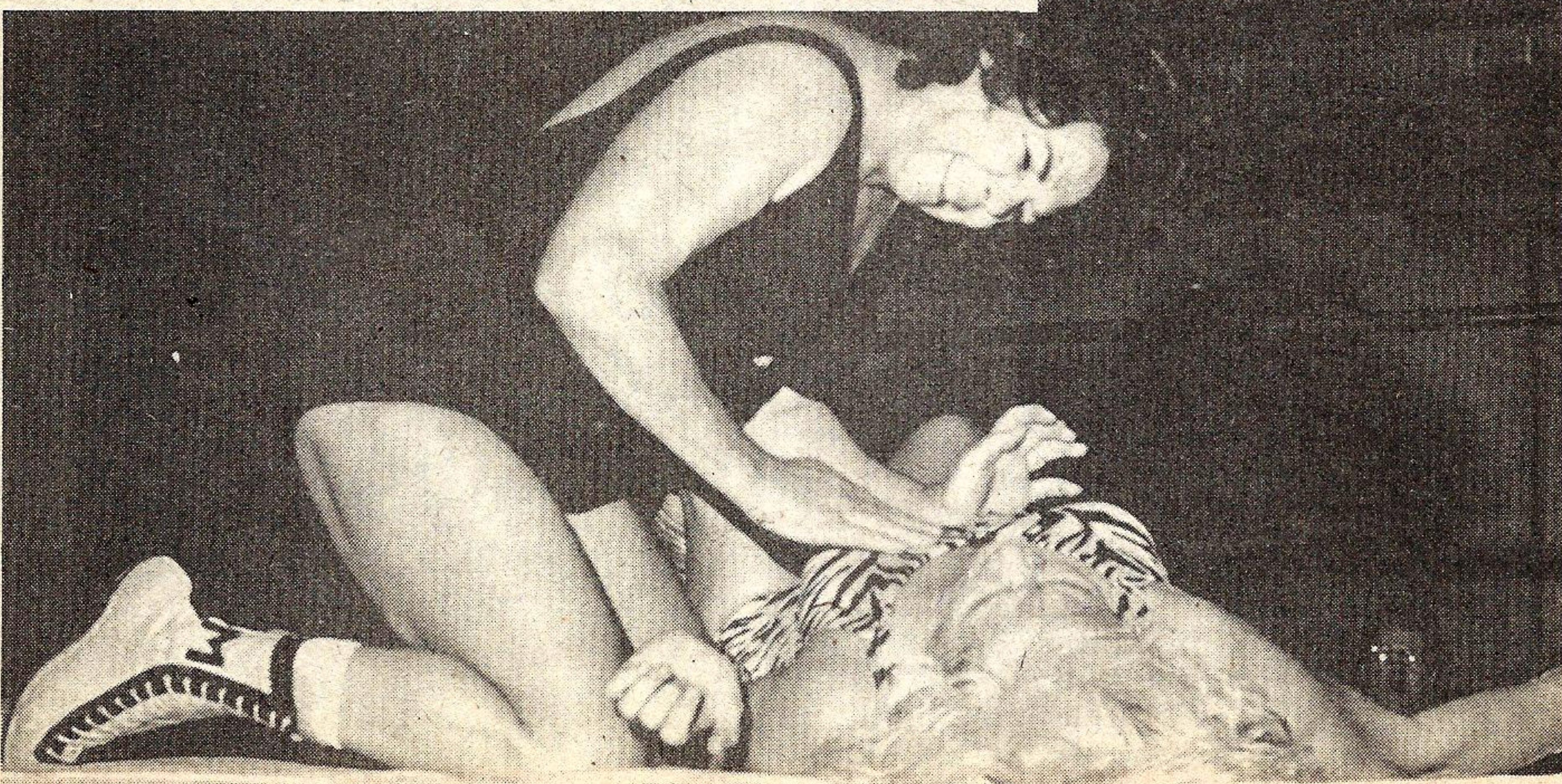
◀ Here the two arch-rivals, Banner and Moolah are back at it again, but this time Moolah has the upper hand as she chokes Penny.

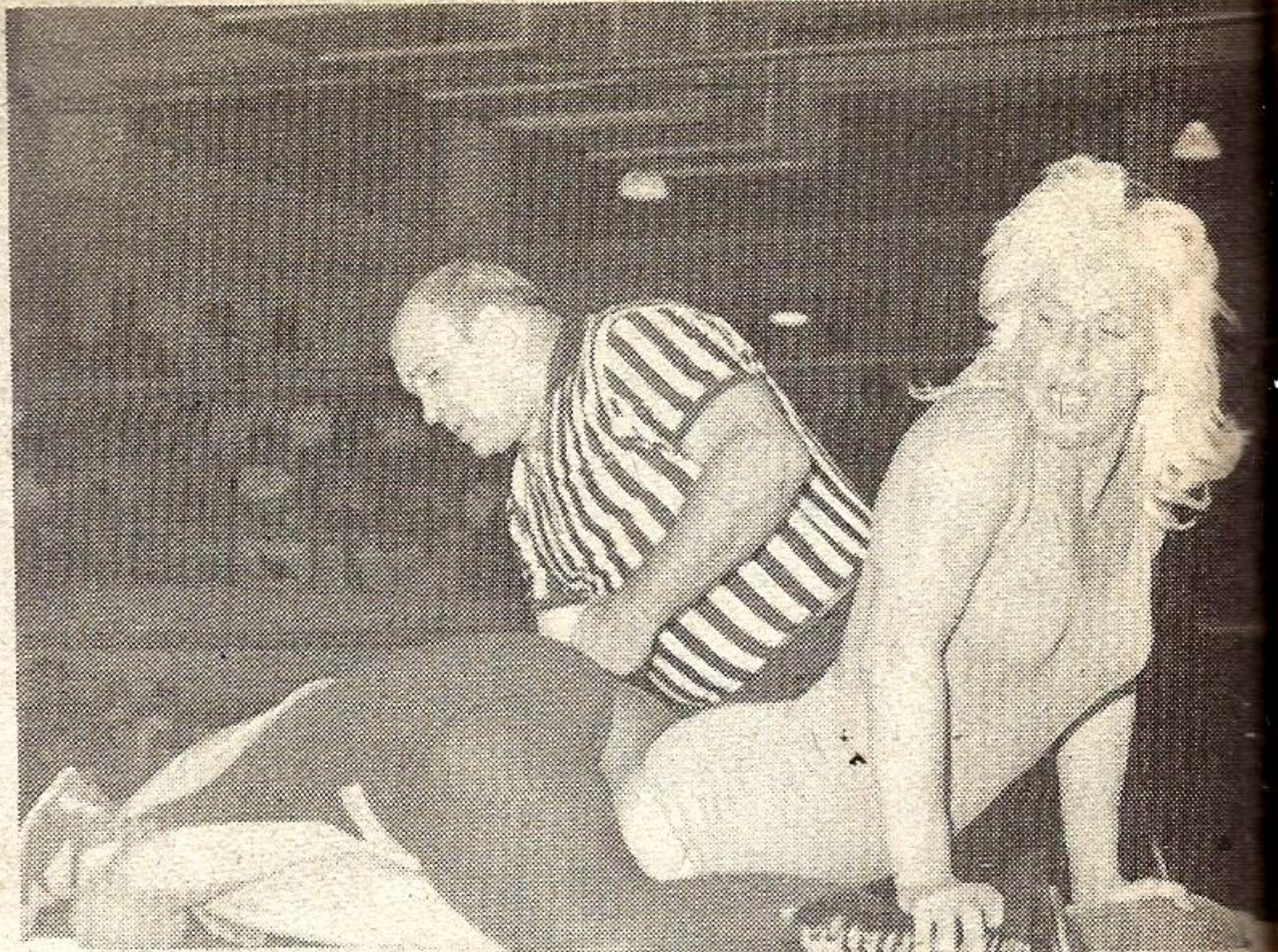
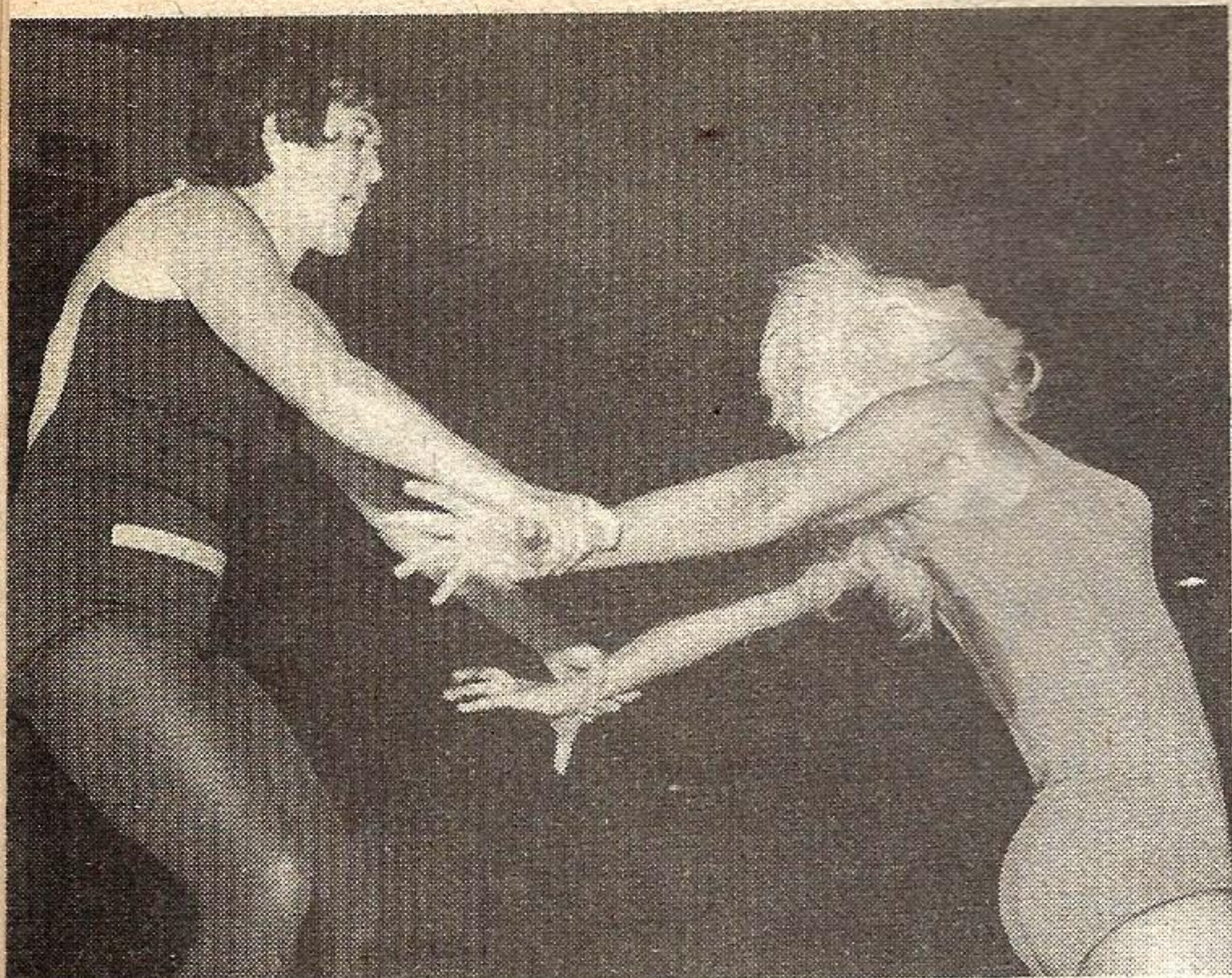


▲ Penny looks disgustedly back at her opponent Belle Starr, who is the victim of a figure-four leglock.

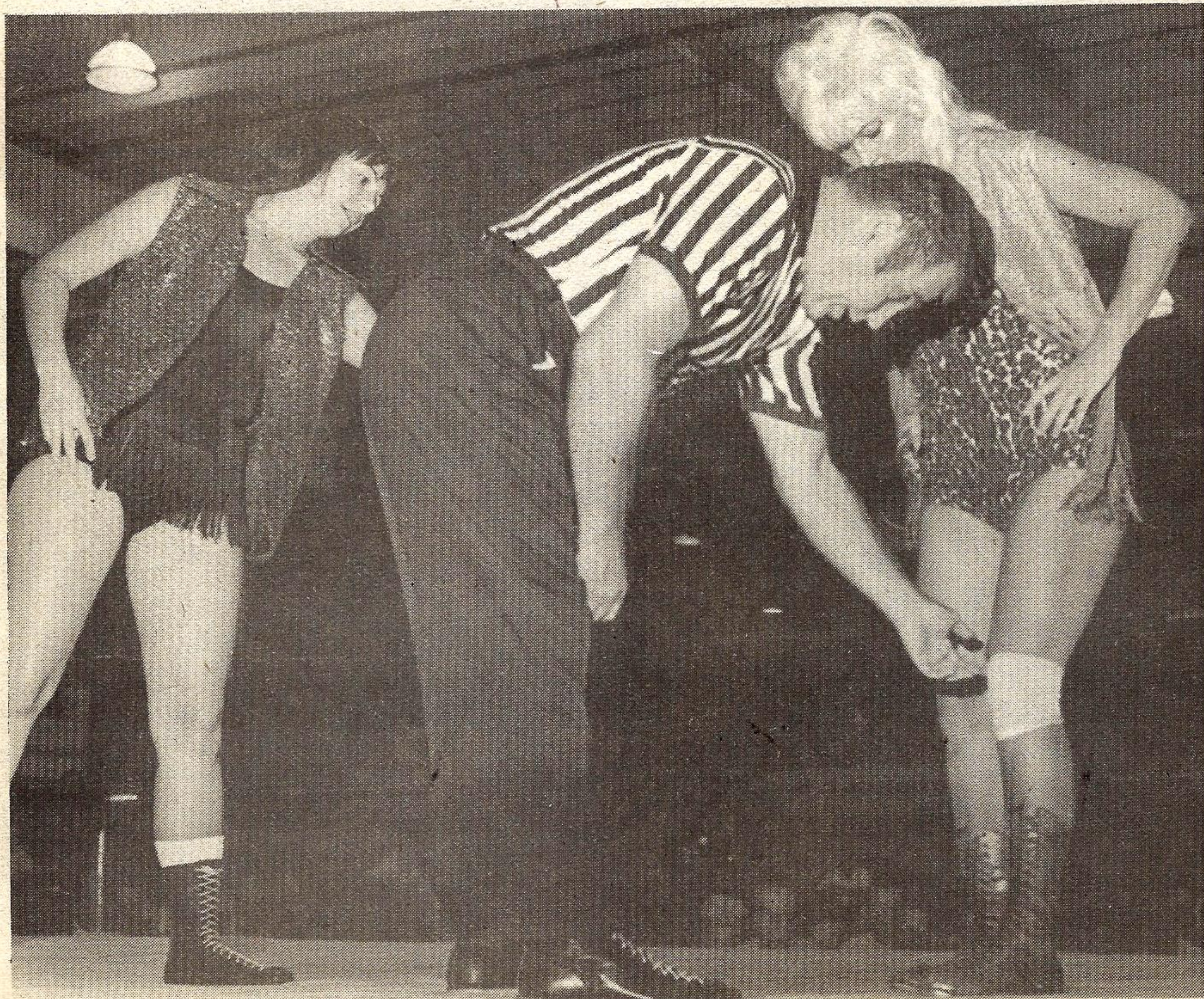
While Penny lies prone on the canvas, Moolah is about to pounce on her in a bid to make a pin.

▼

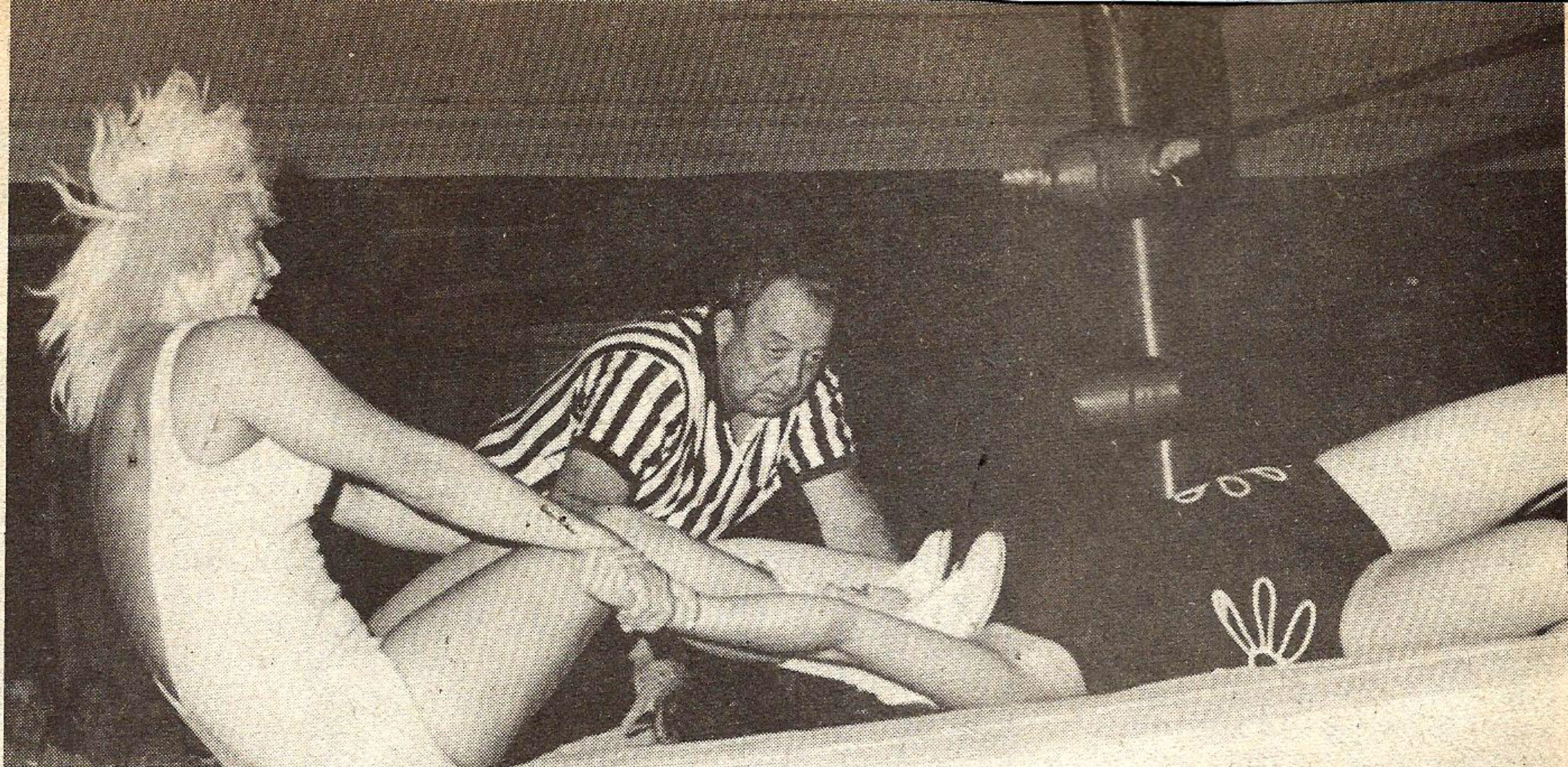




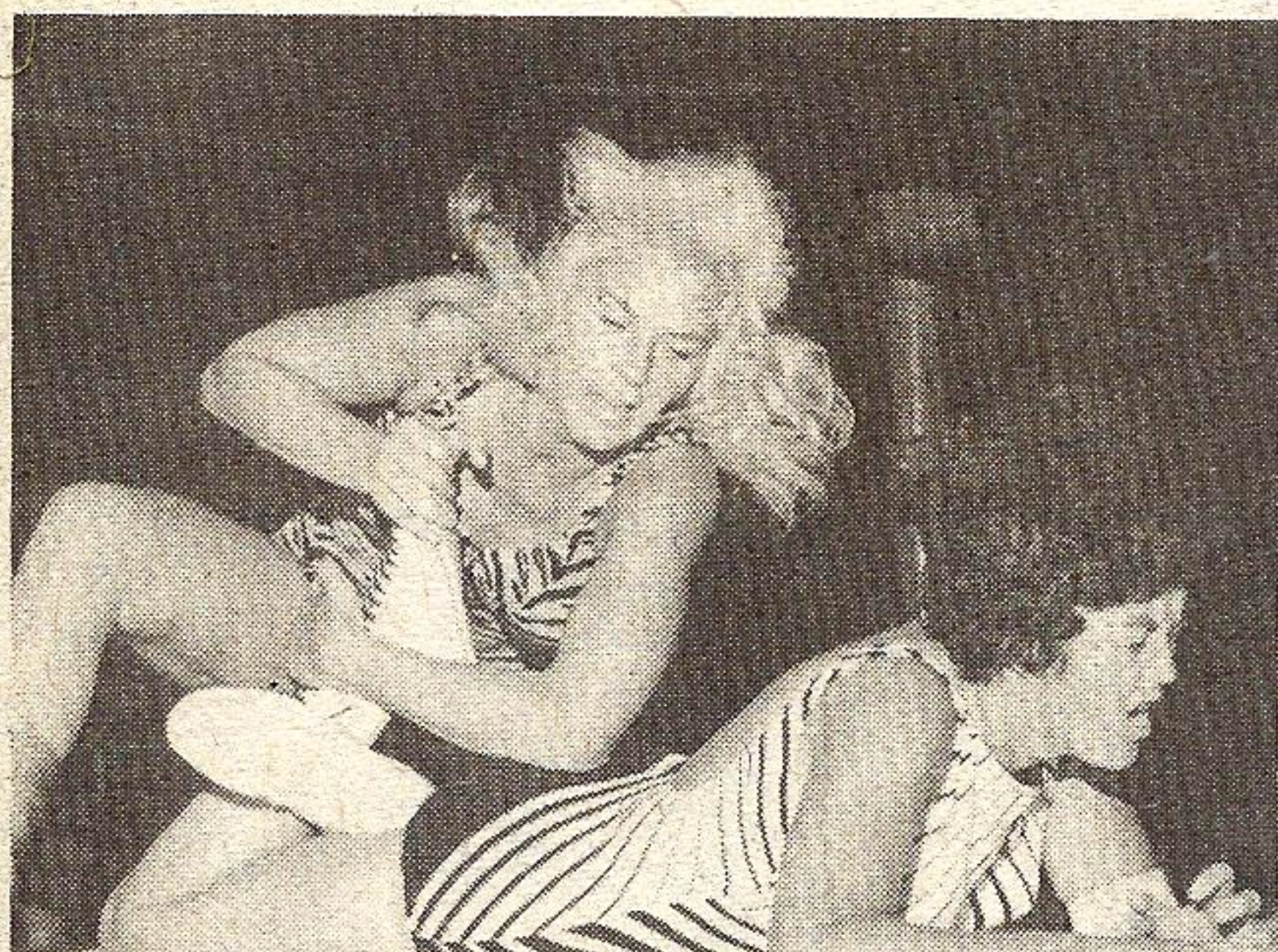
Belle Starr is making life miserable for Penny Banner (left), but she didn't have the advantage for long as Penny soon had things under control. The referee, the late Angelo Martinelli — is about to ask Belle if she's ready to concede.



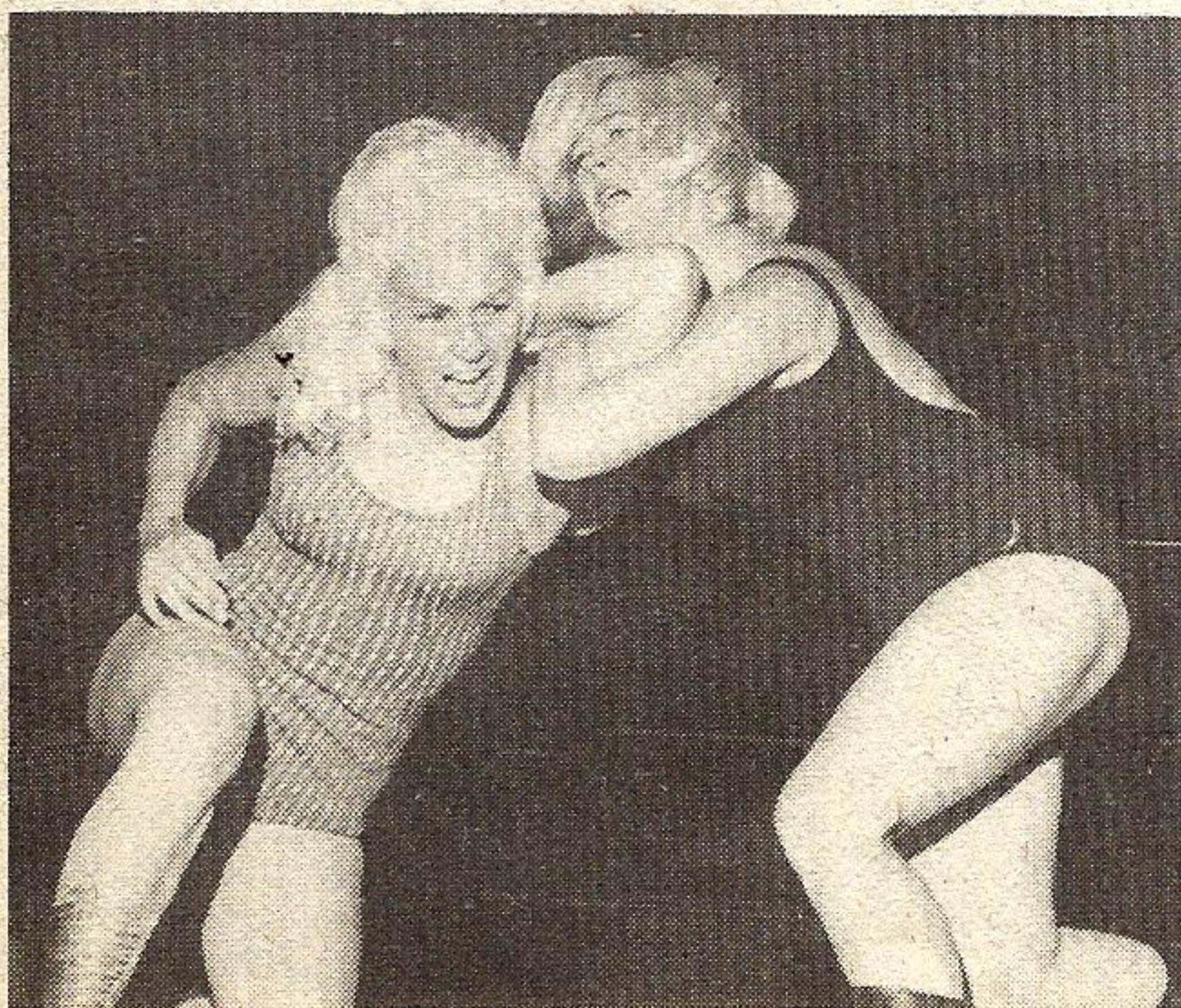
Toni Rose asks referee Tom Bradley to check the bandage on Penny Banner's knee prior to a match.



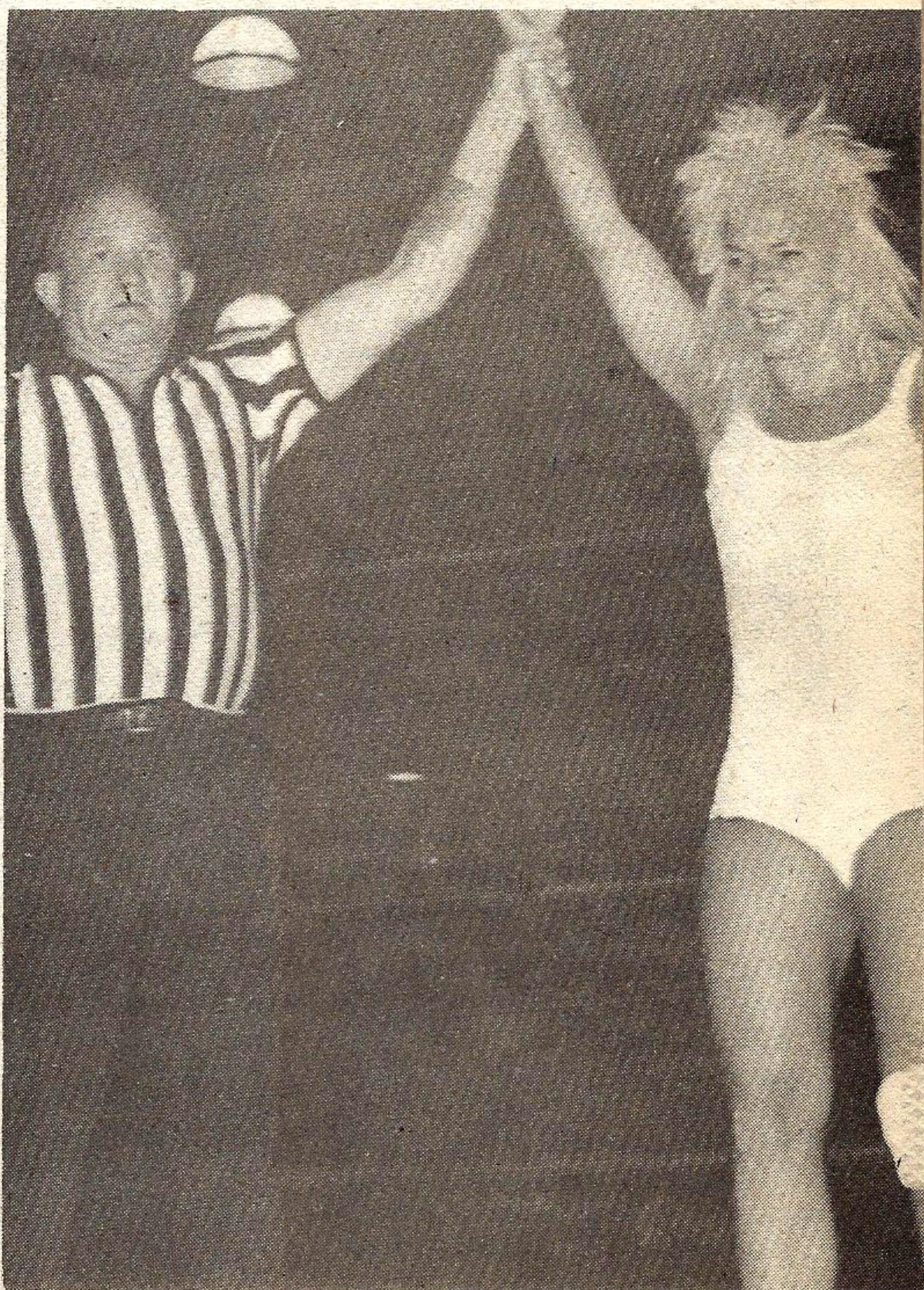
Referee, the late Lucky Roberts, keeps a close watch on things as Penny attempts to add a few inches to Toni Rose's height by stretching her.



Belle Starr has a pained expression as she falls victim to Penny's figure-four leglock.



A pair of battling blondes, Penny Banner (kneeling) is about to break an arm hold being applied by Paula Kaye.



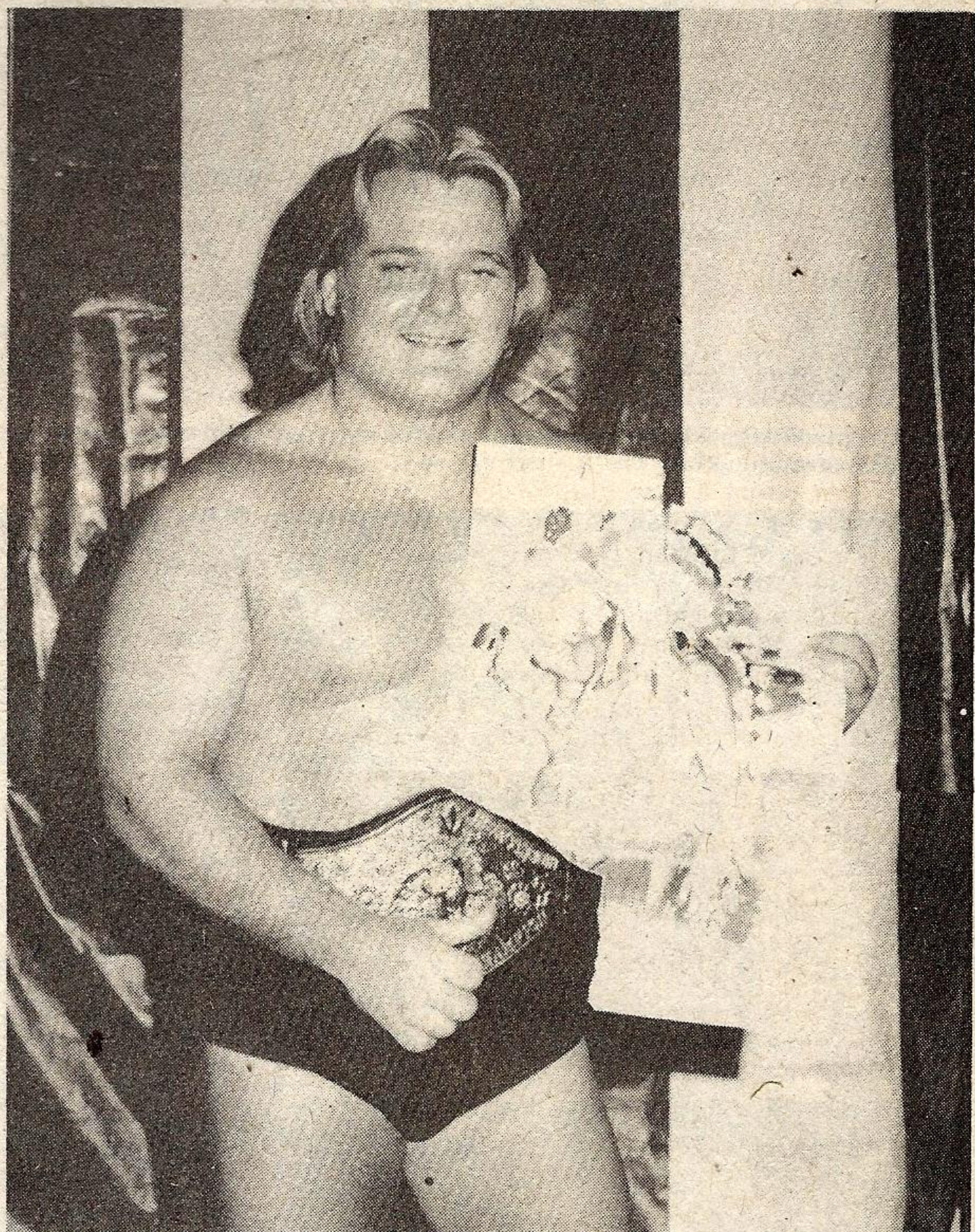
The referee — in this instance, Walt Buckner — raises Penny Banner's arm in victory a familiar sight during Banner's successful ring career.

WWF NEWS & VIEWS

Were the fans ever happy when **Chief Jay Strongbow** showed up at the television matches. Strongbow, walking with the aid of crutches, sat at ringside whenever **Greg Valentine** wrestled. WWF officials wanted to remove the Cherokee mat star to avoid any trouble but Jay bought a ticket and so he stayed. **Vince McMahon** interviewed Strongbow who stated, "I'll be back soon and Valentine will pay with blood. I never wanted anyone so much as I do Valentine".... **Bruno Sammartino** defeated **Luscious John Valiant** at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, N.Y.... WWF Champion **Bob Backlund** beat **Chief Peter Maivia** in a lumberjack match before Maivia left for a tour of the Orient.... **Pat Patterson** upped his rating status with a victory over **Dominic DeNucci** on TV when Dom failed to beat the count while outside the ring.... WWF North American champion **Ted DiBiase** is having his hands full with **Dick (Bulldog) Brower**. Brower has set his sights on Ted's belt.

Fred Blassie is off on a world tour and has signed over the contracts of both **The Great Hussien Arab** and **Nikolai Volkoff** to **The Grand Wizard** until his return. Fred said before he left, "Wizard is the greatest mind in wrestling. He can get the most out of any wrestler I know. Wizard can be trusted with any worldly possession I have.".... **Tito Santana** is doing very well for himself and this young mat star is destined for great things. Already **The Grand Wizard** and **Captain Lou Albano** are looking for ways to get rid of Santana.... **Bruno Sammartino** defeated a bloody **Chief Peter Maivia** in a steel cage match in Boston, Mass.... **Nikolai Volkoff** and **Baron Mikel Scicluna** waged a rugged match when they tangled in Philadelphia, Pa, with Volkoff winning.

The Grand Wizard is highly miffed over the fact that **Steve Travis** was declared the winner over **The Great Hussien Arab** via disqualification. Wizard comments, "The referee was just waiting for Hussien to try anything illegal. This is a blatant



Greg Valentine poses with a photo of his arch-rival Chief Jay Strongbow, who had his leg broken by Valentine's notorious figure-four leglock.

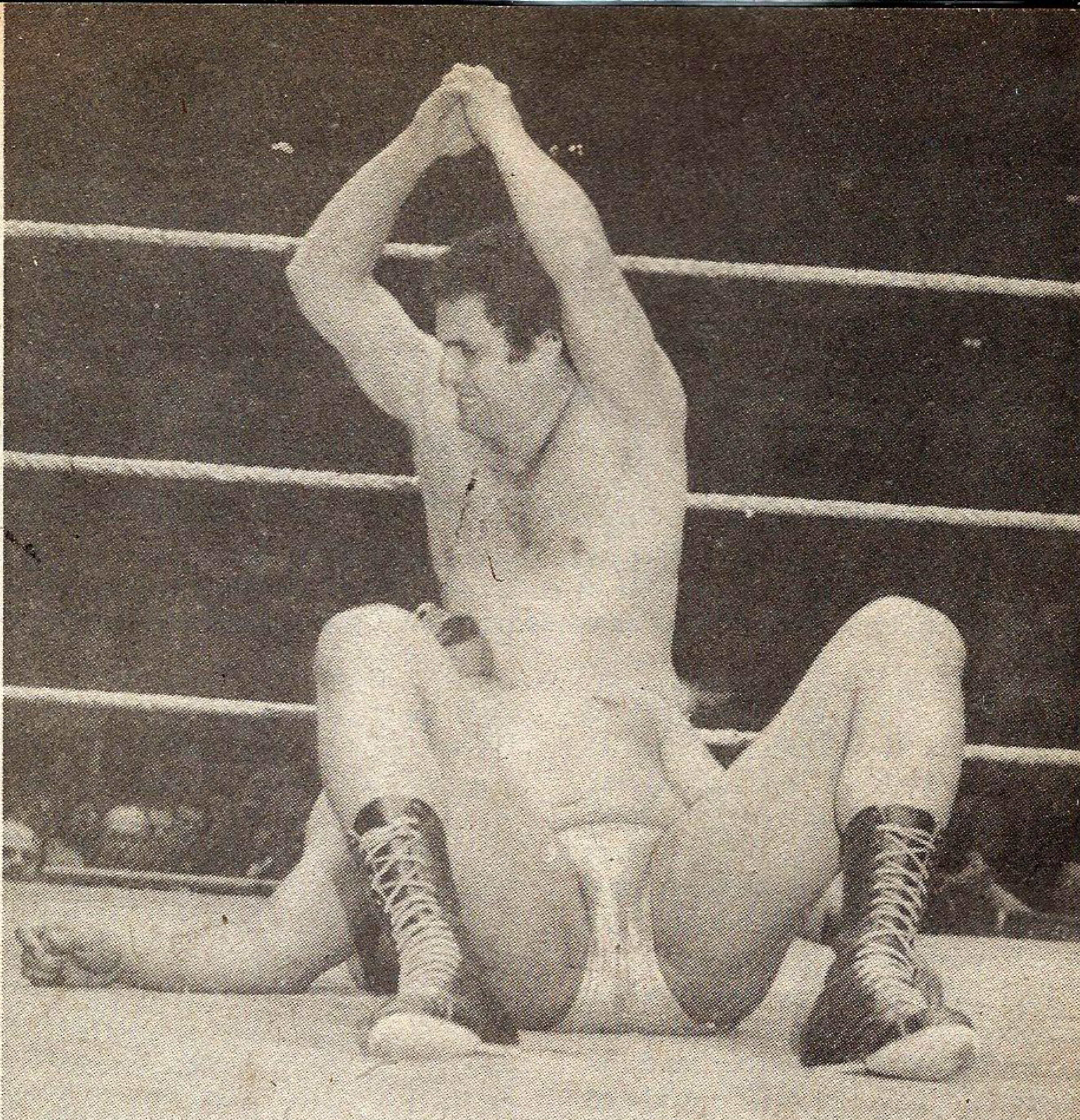
trick to eliminate Hussien from title contention but it won't work".... **Ted DiBiase** turned back another challenger when he defeated **Gentleman Jerry Valiant**.... **Greg Valentine** has scored two token victories over WWF champion **Bob Backlund** with both bouts being stopped because the champion was bleeding too much. This has caused **The Grand Wizard** fits of anger, "It is plain as the nose on your face that Howdy Backlund is being protected by referees and officials. What must Greg do to earn a decisive victory?"... **Ivan Putski**

and **Steve Travis** have formed a solid tag team and scored a victory over **(Bad News) Allan Coage** and **Baron Mikel Scicluna**.

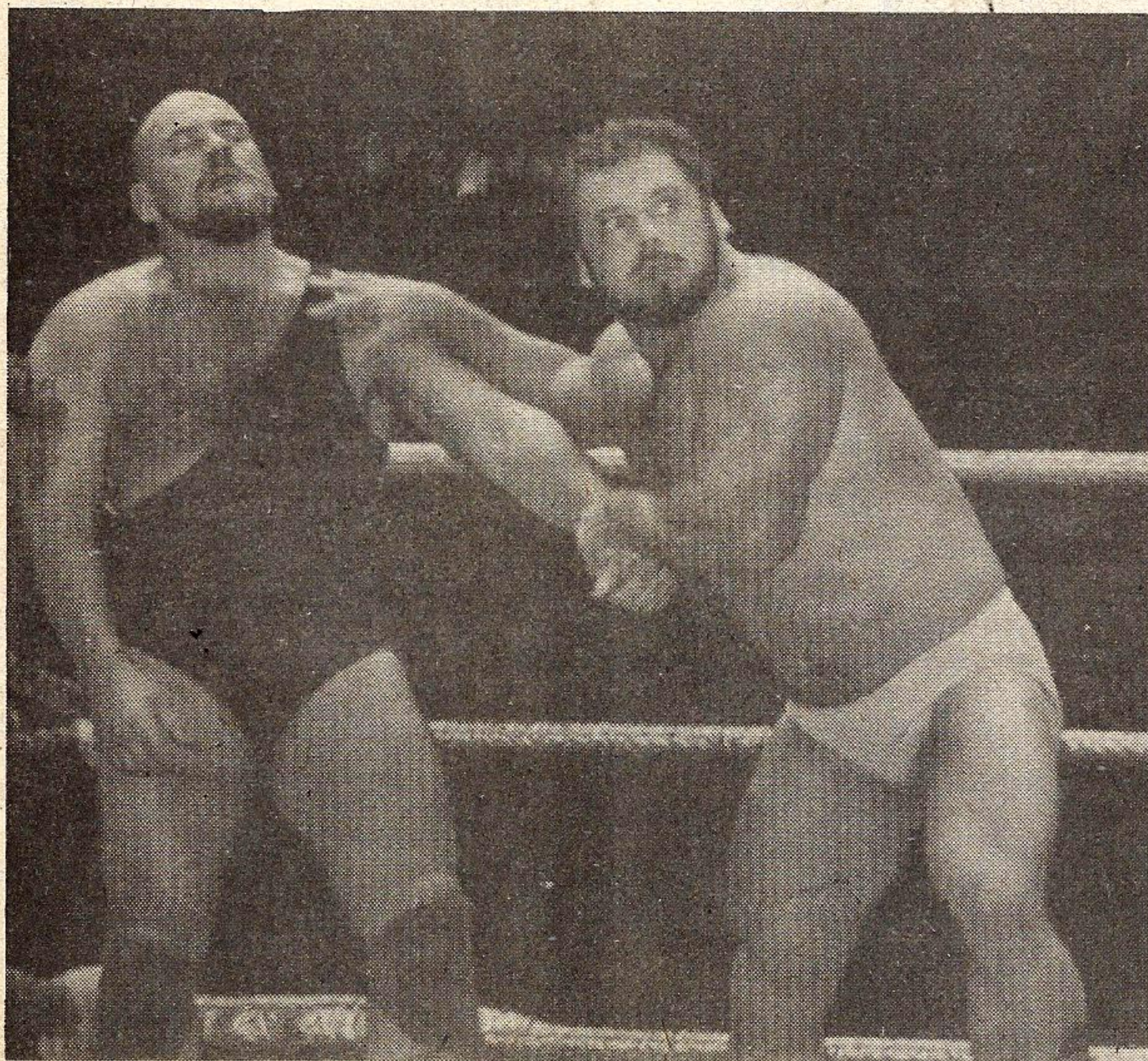
History was made when the world famous Madison Square Garden held its very first Battle Royal, featuring 20 top wrestlers. The double prize for the last wrestler to be left in the ring was \$10,000 and the right to wrestle for the WWF title held by **Bob Backlund**. The Battle Royal was a wild and brutal affair which saw **Gorilla Monsoon** bloodied by **Great Hussien Arab**. Mon-

By
FRANK AMATO

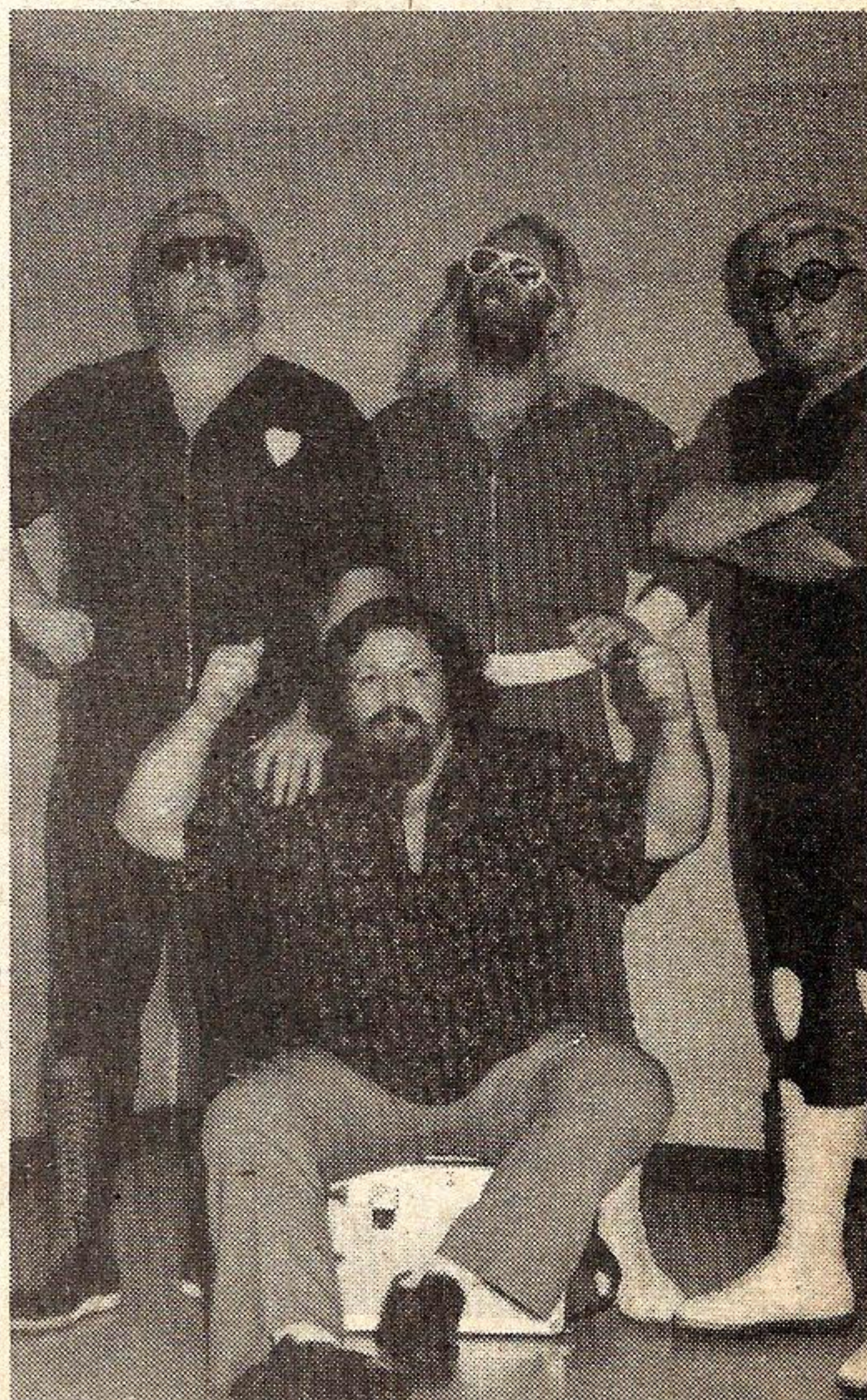
soon was so severely cut he was unable to perform later that night. The winner of this historic encounter was **Great Hossien Arab**. In their title match held later, Hossien was pinned by Backlund after a hectic match... **Fred Blassie** had returned from his world tour and has signed a real surprise for future WWF matches. Blassie refused to divulge the name. So we all must wait.... **HANDSOME Jimmy Valiant** has made it known he wants the WWF North American belt. Jimmy has also taken to using a taped weapon in his matches of late.... The wrestling fans were given a real treat at Madison Square Garden's night of the Battle Royal. **Captain Lou Albano** was displeased with ring commentator **Vince McMahon Jr.** Albano had accompanied Hossien into the ring for his match with Backlund, saying he was there as a favor to **THE GRAND**



Flying Fred Curry has fared well in the World Wide Wrestling Federation. Here he's about to lower the boom on vicious Victor Rivera.



One of the grappling game's fiercest feuds is between Ivan Putski, who is about to whip his arch-rival across the ring, and Ivan Koloff.



Captain Lou Albano (seated) shows off the Valiant gang (left to right), Gentleman Jerry, Luscious Johnny and Handsome Jimmy.

any results via programs, newspaper clippings or letters. Please mail to

Frank Amato, 80 Countisbury Ave., North Valley Stream, N.Y., 11580.



Tito Santana, a popular performer from Mexico, was trained by Dory Funk Jr.

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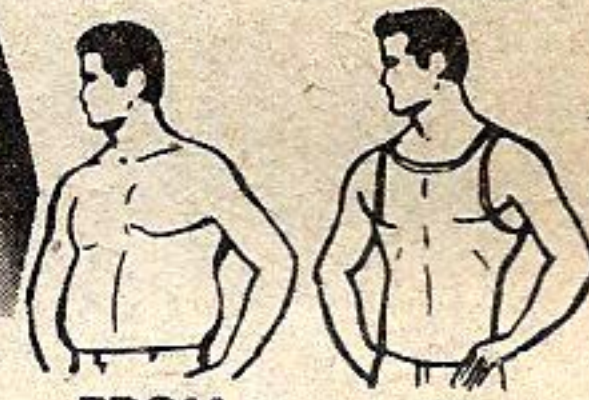


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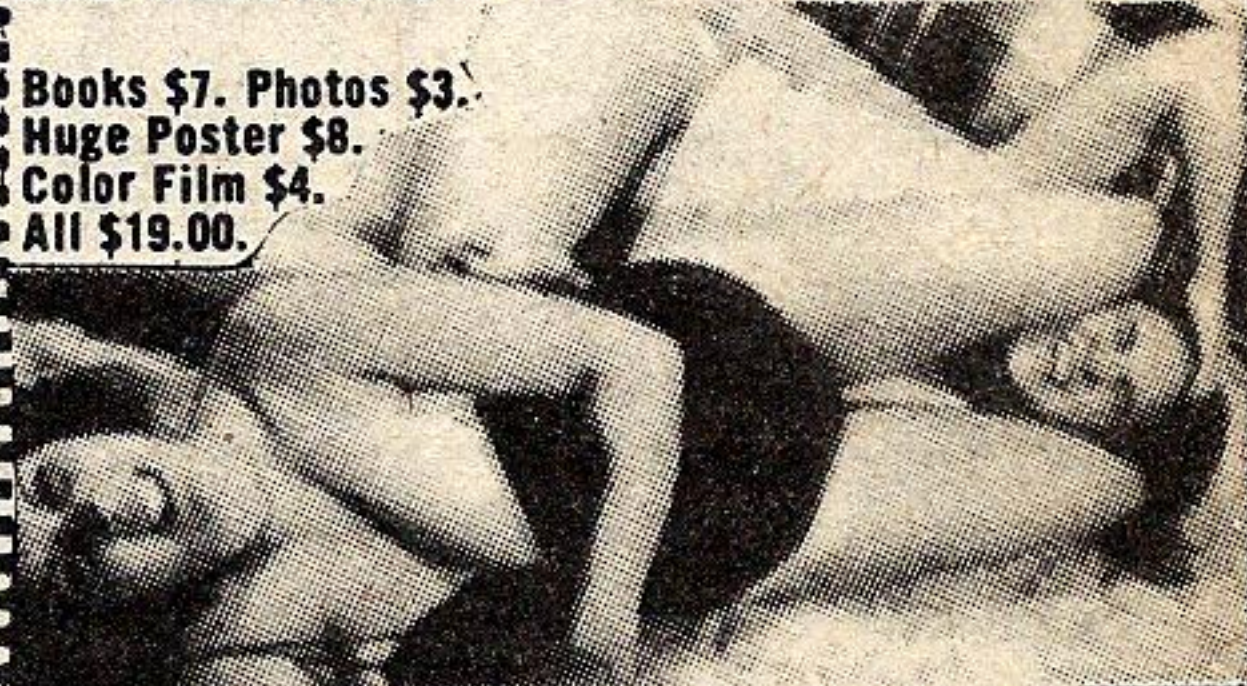
My chest is _____ inches. (Exhale & measure chest.)
SIZES: ☐ S (34-36), ☐ Med. (38-40), ☐ Lg. (42-44),
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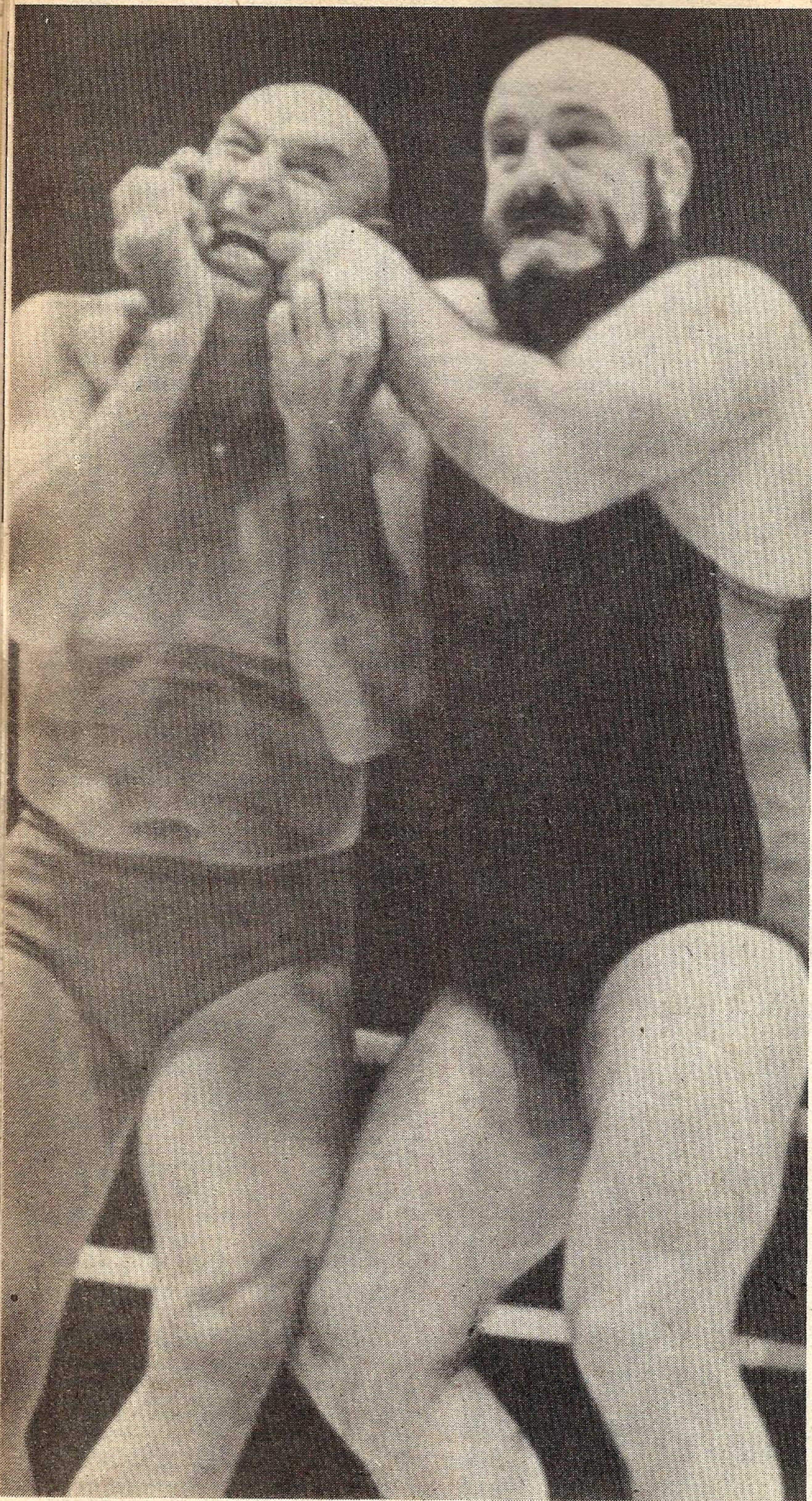


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Maurice (Mad Dog) Vachon makes sure his opponent Billy Red Cloud smiles for the camera.

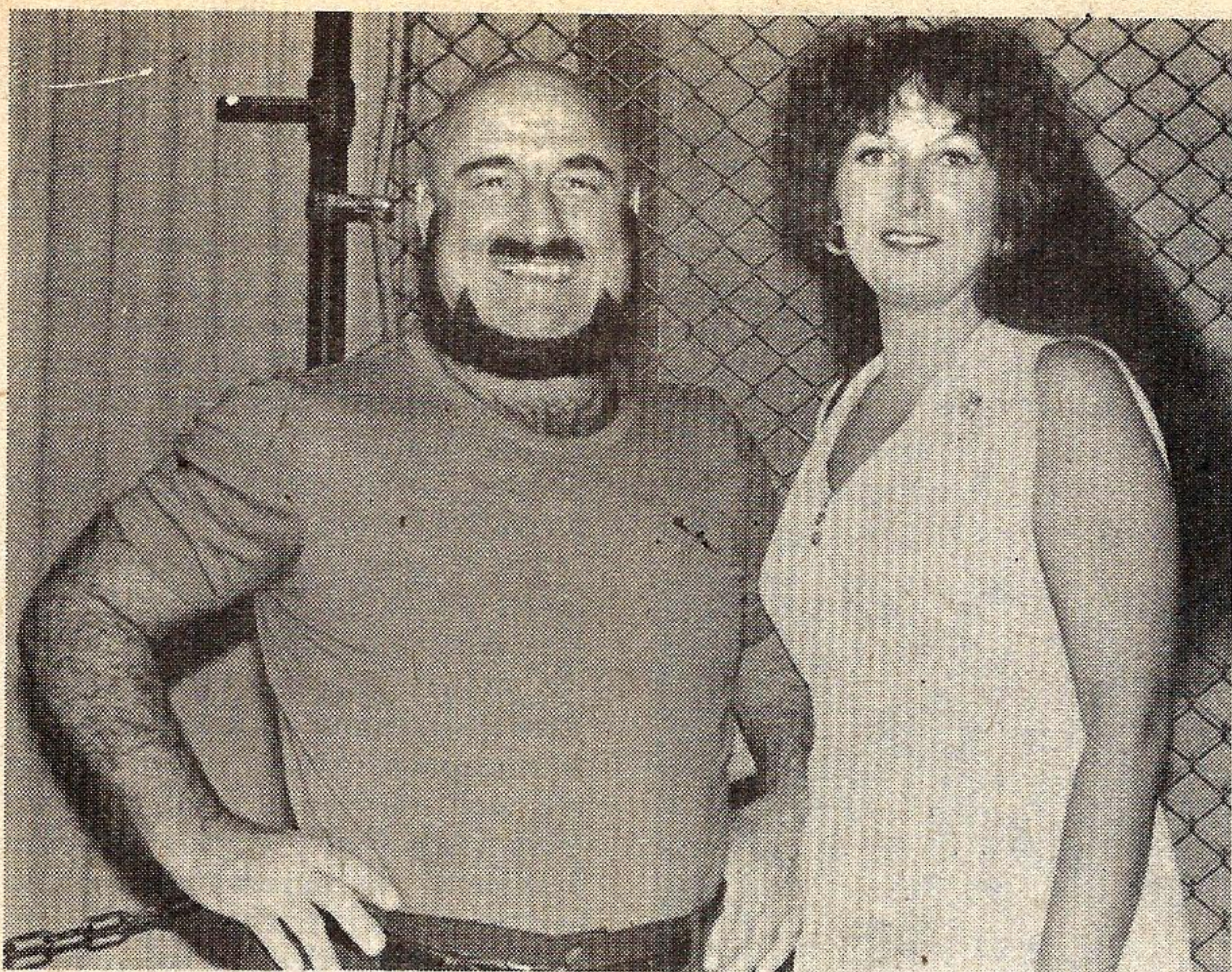
AN INSIDE LOOK AT MATDOM'S 'MAD DOG'

By ROBERT J. RUIZ

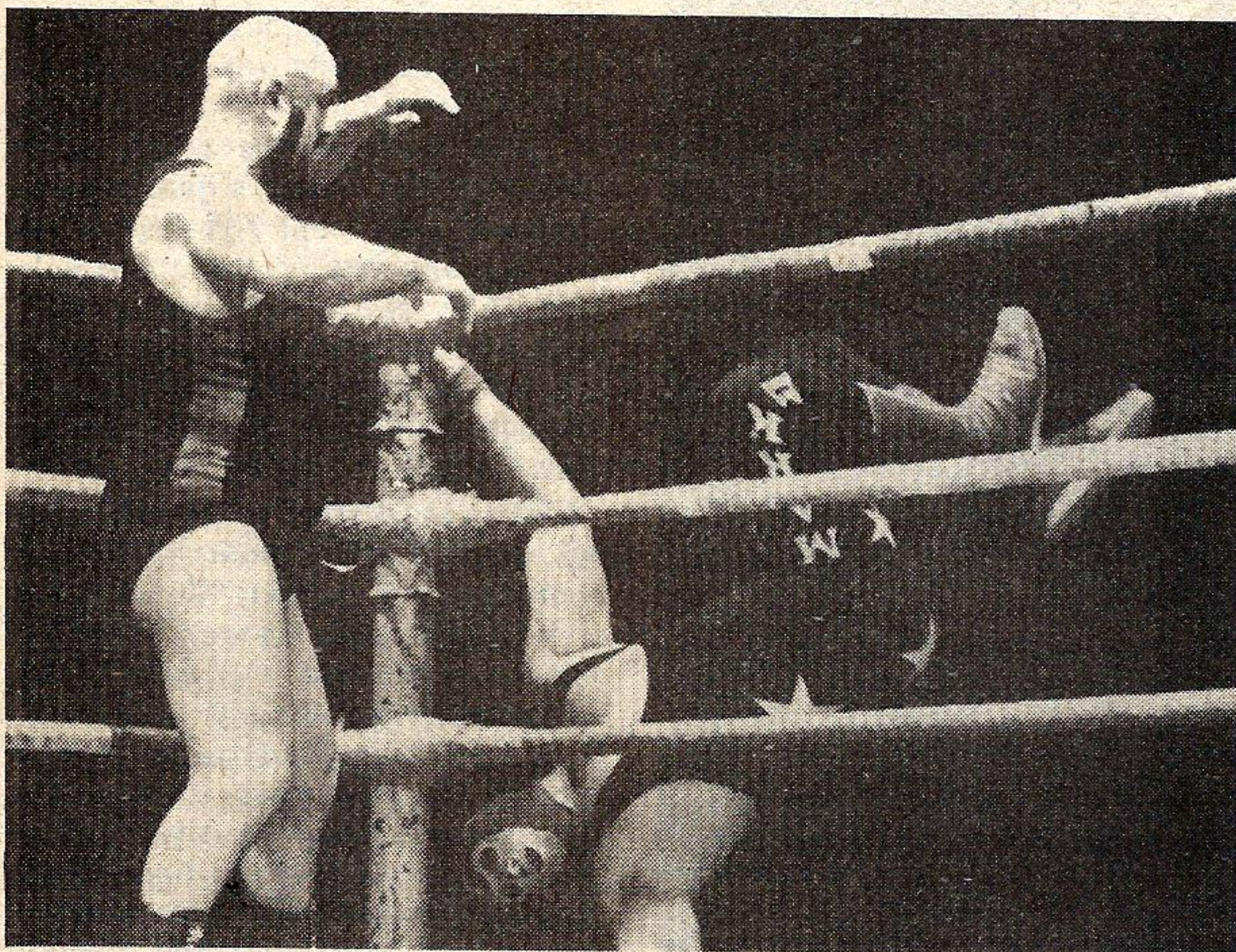
In the 1930s, there was Vincent (Mad Dog) Coll, a ruthless cold-blooded killer of anyone who got in his way. Then, in the '60s came Maurice (Mad Dog) Vachon, 226 pounds of fighting fury in a wrestling ring.

The only thing which separated the two 'Mad Dogs', according to some, was the fact that Vachon was able to get away with his own special brand of mayhem — legally. He was paid for doing the very same things the original 'Mad Dog' did for nothing. Well, Vachon didn't exactly bring a machine gun into the ring, but he might as well have for the damage he has inflicted on scores of opponents over the years.

With his riotous ring tactics, Vachon singlehandedly managed to usher in a new era in professional wrestling. His was a special entourage of chaos that set him apart from the usual staid villain that made up



By the time this magazine goes to press, Vachon will probably have made Kathie the third Mrs. 'Mad Dog' Vachon.



'Mad Dog' is a ferocious competitor. Here, he dumps Super Destroyer II out of the ring.

the ranks of the pros. Here was a tiger unleashed in all his ferocity. The stocky Canadian would break any rule or neck put in front of him with sheer delight, either one, it was all the same to the 'Mad Dog'.

Surely, the word 'legend' is thrown about in sports parlance to the point of abuse. But in reality, there are only a handful of same in wrestling. —

Gagne, Thesz, The Bruiser and 'Mad Dog' Vachon.

Apart from being one of the most hated men ever to grace a mat, the animalistic Vachon has managed to garner most of the big titles in wrestling, including the world tag-team crown, with his larger but baby brother Paul, and a lengthy grip on the American Wrestling Association

singles title as well.

Competing in the 1948 Olympics, Vachon found wrestling to his liking. Other sports followed, like the national pastime of all Canadians, ice hockey, and later a stint as a bouncer in a Montreal nightclub. When an ambitious promotor convinced Vachon there was more money to be made bouncing wrestlers in a ring rather than out, thus, history was made.

Vachon is not a big man nor particularly strong as wrestlers go — he has never lifted weights. He wasn't that skilled a ring technician either.

To compensate for his obvious physical short-comings, 'Mad Dog' developed a frame of mind equal to none, that of pure jungle savagery. Biting, clawing and gouging his way to the top, the little fireplug left a trail of broken bodies and broken dreams as well en route to the top. Truly, he was the most feared man in pro wrestling.

Over the years, Vachon developed his most famous feud with Verne Gagne. The two men had ironically, competed in the same Olympic wrestling even although in different weight classes. Vachon tried to make his career by ending Gagne's in a long series of vicious grudge matches. Maurice's hatred of Verne extended far beyond the squared circle however, and Gagne always made sure to keep his back to the wall if he and Vachon should cross paths at the local gin mills.

Ironically, Vachon was brought out of a two-year retirement this year, at Verne Gagne's request (and financial inducement). Gagne wanted the most vicious man around to be his tag partner and whatever his personal feelings towards Vachon, Verne knew who to pick.

After much negotiating, Vachon was enticed out of retirement to be Gagne's team partner. The two engaged defending AWA kings Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens in a wild and punishing series of bouts that finally culminated with Gagne and Vachon winning the belts in a major upset. The victory was made all the more pleasant because it transpired on Canadian soil — Winnipeg, Manitoba, to be exact.

Suddenly, Vachon is a hero in a sport that demands classification. It is an unfamiliar situation for the man fellow wrestlers address simply as

"Dog". The bearded grappler still wrestles the same way, hell bent for leather, no holds barred. Yet, because he is now raising havoc upon those the fans find less than desirable elements, it is all perfectly acceptable.

Away from the ring, Vachon can be a most charming and persuasive fellow. Even as a villain, he loved children and would amaze passerbys when he would pick up little kids for a hug. It is only when he is preparing to step into a ring does the

transformation occur, a la Jeckyl and Hyde.

Vachon psyches himself up so completely that this once gentle man becomes a snarling, raging tiger, ready to dismember anyone in his path. He forgets where he is sometimes, thinking he is back at that bar in Montreal and getting away with murder. He's been known to use the ring steps, the announcers microphone, everything but the kitchen sink, to get his point accross. He tried to use the sink once but

couldn't pry it off the wall.

For Vachon, winning isn't the most important thing, making sure the opposition doesn't get up is. Consequently, 'Mad Dog' has probably been disqualified more times than any other wrestler in ring history. It is so bad, Gagne must keep a constant watch on him during the course of their tag bouts together unless Vachon causes them to lose by disqualification. Something that did happen often during the team's formative period.

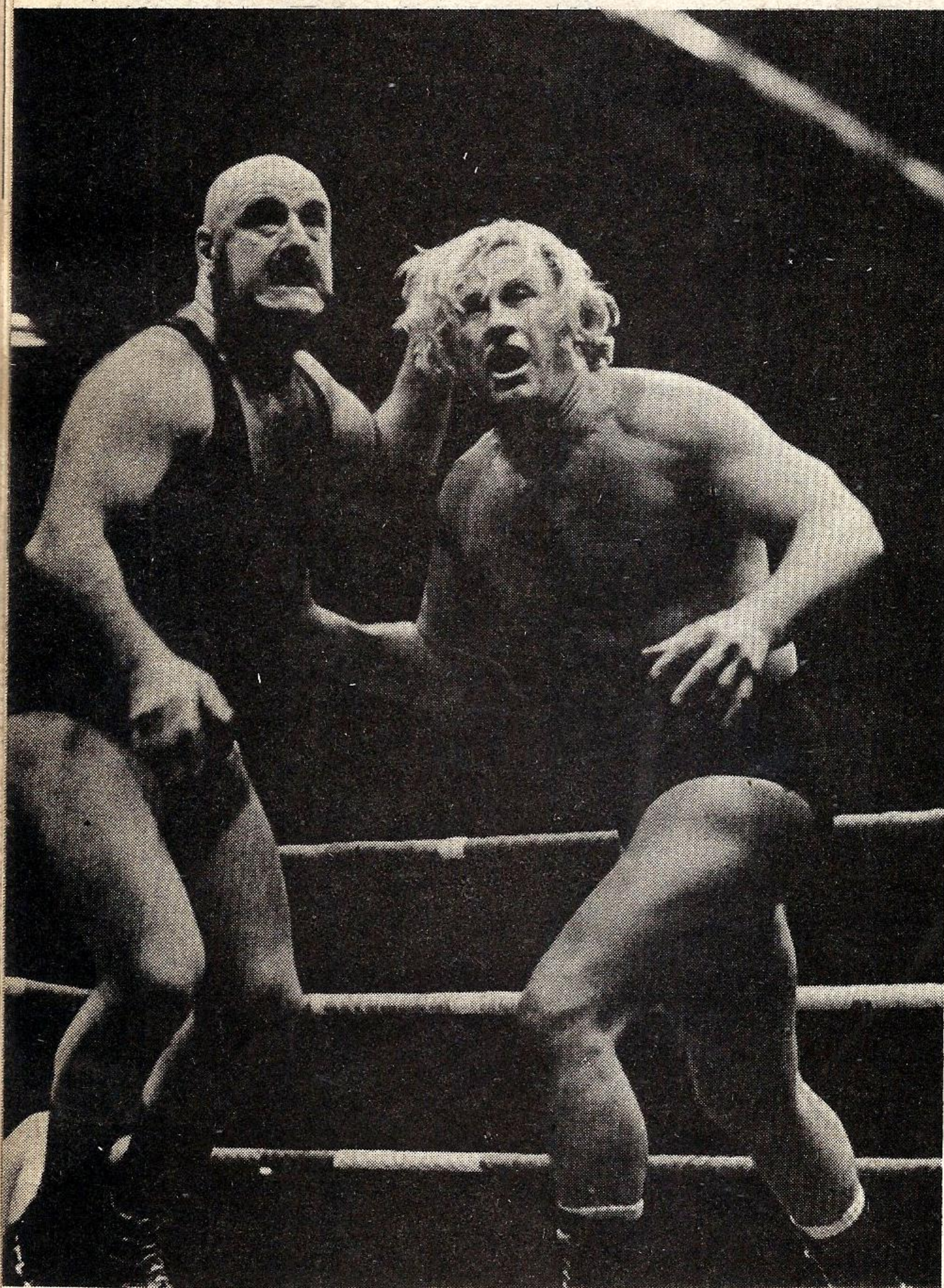
The scrappy Vachon one makes no bones about his feeling for Gagne. He's teamed up with him strictly for the money. He has little love for Verne, stemming back to the day in Minneapolis, Minn., when Gagne regained the world championship from Vachon after a year's absence without it. The longest anyone would ever keep the belt from Gagne until recently. It was decided before hand that should the defending champion Vachon be disqualified, Gagne would be given the belt anyway. This almost never happens in wrestling, but a special ruling was made on this one occasion.

However, someone neglected to mention this new stipulation to Vachon, who went right out, went berserk and was promptly disqualified. This didn't worry 'Mad Dog' any because a champ always keeps his belt on this technicality. Or so he thought.... Gagne was handed the belt as Vachon raged.

'Mad Dog' tried for several years to secure a return bout with Gagne but the old master found better things to do with his spare time than allow a maniac to spill blood, particularly Verne's.

Several years ago, an auto crash almost finished Vachon. His back was broken, ribs crushed and it seemed the end of the line for the gallant Canuck. However, doctors weren't prepared for the Vachon desire. He attacked his recovery with the same ferocity he used on opponents in the ring, head-on and furious. Death backed away, signaling it too wanted no part of 'Mad Dog'. There was no hurry to bring him to the Pearly Gates.

Vachon recovered fully and continued his career until about two years ago. At that time, he retired for good. He explained; "I had been away for so long, that I need to have time to



Vachon is probably the most disqualified wrestler in grappling history. Here, he's about to throw Nick Bockwinkel across the ring by his hair. Yes, 'Mad Dog' was later disqualified.

get to know my wife and family over again."

However, the lure of the ring proved too great for Vachon, who had, at this time, been involved in a restaurant business and a little promoting.

At 49, age is beginning to take its toll on 'Mad Dog'. His trademark, the standing broad jumps across a ring in circular motion are no longer in abundance. He tends to tire more quickly now, causing his matches to be of shorter duration than in the past. However, the old ferocity is still there. Vachon still delights in punishing opponents, but he must put them away as quickly as possible before fatigue sets in.

Vachon is a man of many peculiarities. He never wears socks while wearing shoes. Instead, the bearded one wears his socks to bed at night. He is meticulous in health care, using dental floss at restaurants and trying to run five miles a day when circumstances permit.

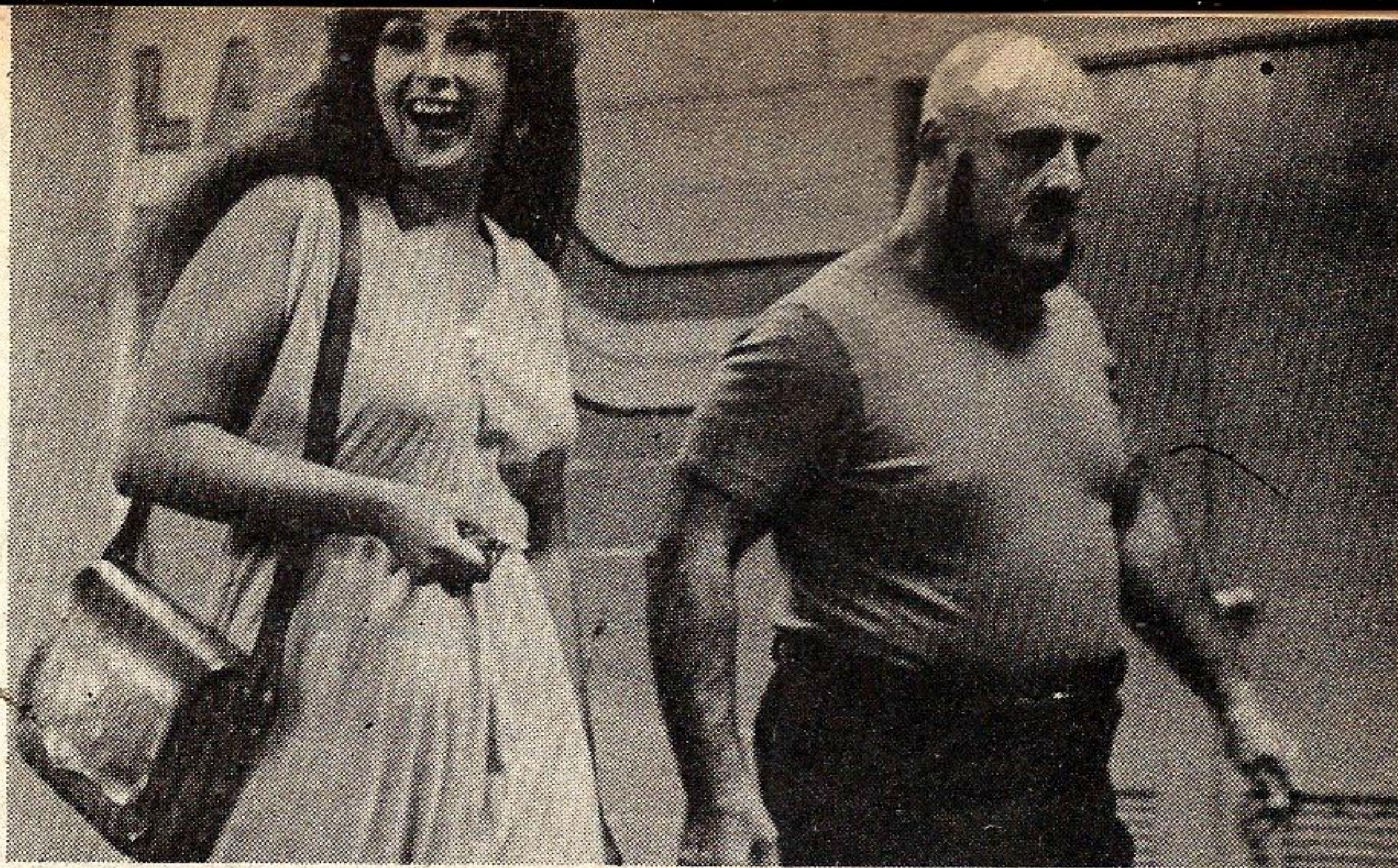
'Mad Dog' loves kids and well he should, being the eldest of the Vachon brood, back in Montreal, which numbers 13 children in the family. His folks are still alive, well, and happily married.

Vachon left home at 12 years of age to make his mark in the world, laboring at a variety of jobs from packing house to part owner of a restaurant in Montreal last year. He calls his early life on the road from the first time he jumped a boxcar as, "The best education there is, the school of the road".

Vachon places great importance on education because he knows the gaps in his own learning from having just a minimum of schooling.

Always having an eye for the ladies, Vachon met his first wife, Dorothy, in Detroit, where she was working as an elevator operator. His second wife, Nicole, was a Montreal stewardess when the love bug bit.

Vachon, as they say, works hard and plays hard. Known in some circles as 'Disco Dog', the once scowling grappler becomes the picture of a popular dancer as he and his girlfriend dance the night away at various nightclubs. His favorite joke at parties is to jump up on a table and "moon" everyone while the radio blares out the pop tune, "Do you think I'm sexy?".



Tape covers a wound on the top of Vachon's head as he leaves the arena in the company of his favorite lady friend, Kathie.

Steaks on the grill are his favorite food, washed down with whiskey sours. Vachon also loves movies and can often be seen jumping up in his seat at the various cinemas when screen excitement reaches fever pitch. He wept unashamedly at the film, 'The Deerhunter'.

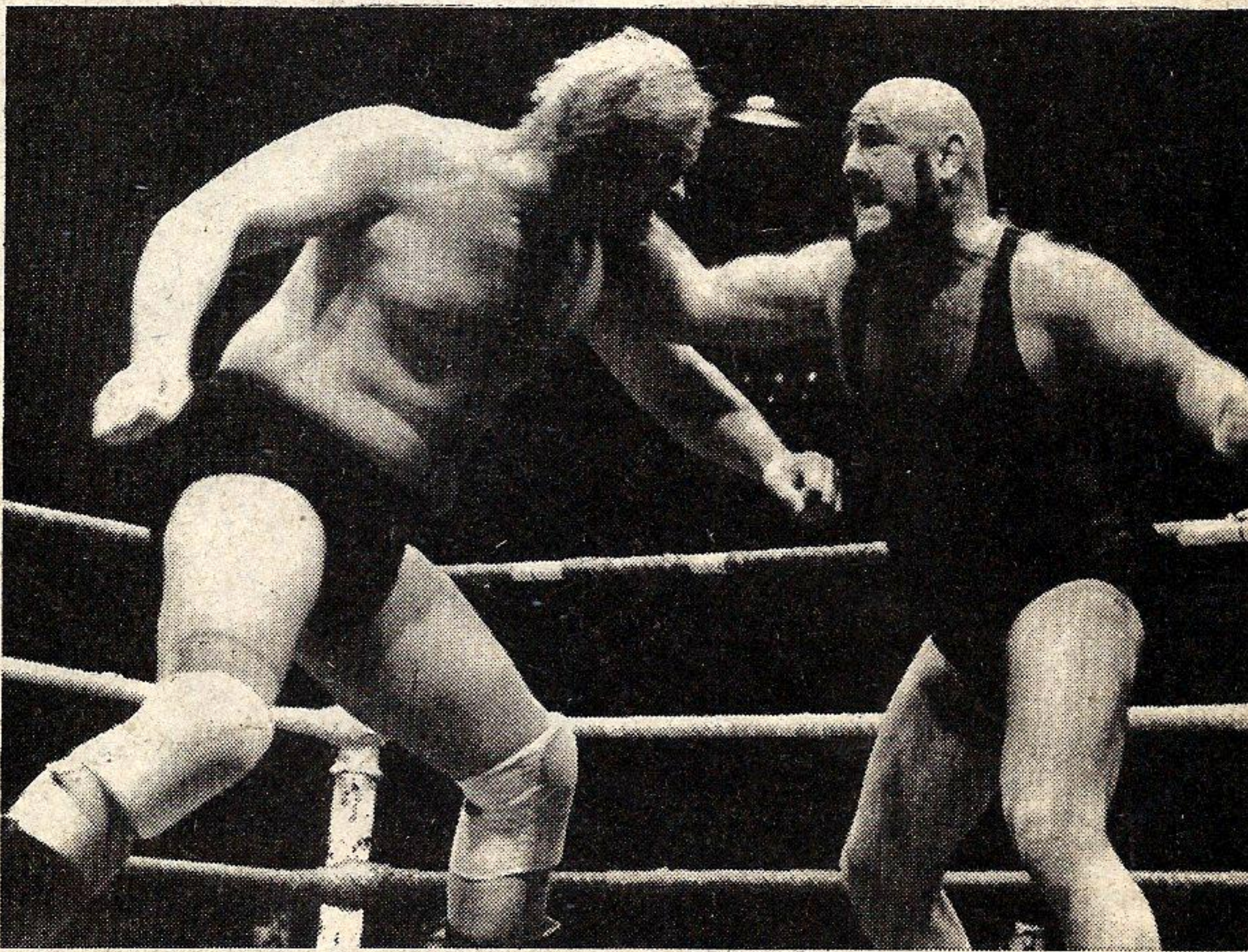
Vachon has children from both his marriages, six in all. His oldest boy, Mike, has two children of his own, making Maurice a proud grandfather.

However, 'Mad Dog' is still a remarkable athlete for a man his age or any age for that matter. Perhaps the secret of his good health is the care he takes of his person. For

example, he takes three showers a day whether he needs them or not. He dyes his beard because he says without doing so, "It would turn white".

Although considered a ladies man, Vachon still has high regard for the institution of marriage. His present fiancée is a beautiful auburn-haired girl named Kathie, who is rumored to become the next 'Mrs Mad Dog' shortly.

The term 'Mrs. Mad Dog' was bestowed on her by fans who are accustomed to seeing the two of them arriving and leaving together. Maurice says that this time, it's the real thing.



Toe-to-toe confrontations are right up Vachon's alley. Here he slugs it out with another rugged customer, Bob Duncum.

West Virginia WILDNESS

By BRIAN HILDEBRAND

The Three Rivers Wrestling Association has moved into yet another city. Grafton is the new city and they are drawing great crowds from all over there. You can add Grafton to the list of great cities in the Mountain State.

Much to the delight of the fans, Billy Berger has returned to the area. The Hollywood flash is back with hopes of capturing Zoltan the Great's lightweight championship. Berger's legion of fans are behind him 100 per cent.

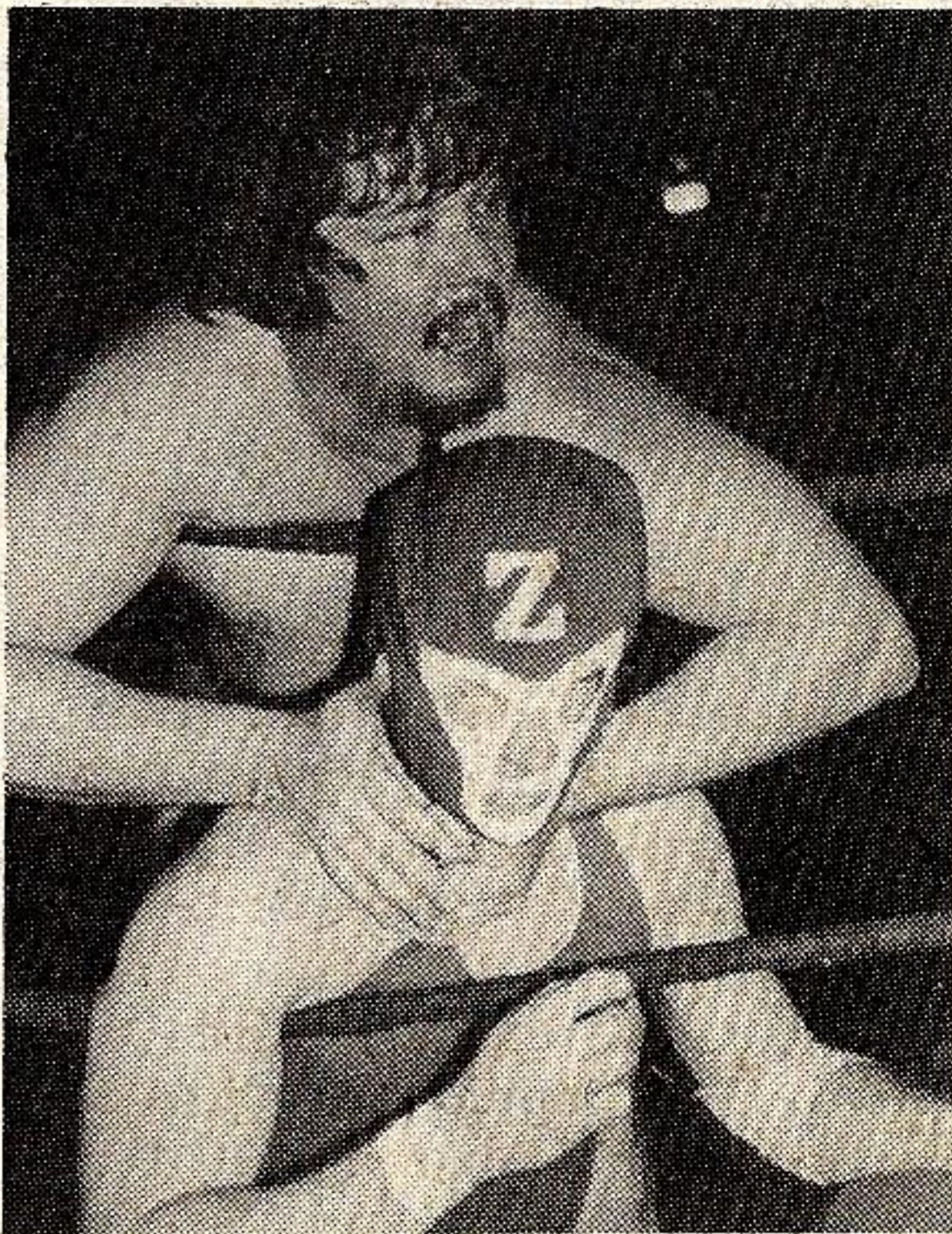
Big, 320-pound, Monster Murdock made his area debut by demolishing Jimmy Watson. Watson is a tough customer in his own right but was baffled by Murdock's unorthodox style. Their match began with rough-house tactics, then, much to the surprise of everyone, the 'Black Executioner' went to the air with flying dropkicks and elbow smashes. Watson just couldn't stand up to the Monster's big guns. Murdock is looking for a shot at Chief Don Red Cloud's Central heavyweight championship and just might win it as he has what it takes.

Zoltan the Great had brought in the latest member of his War Machine, the Moroccan madman, Merga Lazarr. This man is a real lunatic which is the main reason Zoltan brought him in. When this maniac gets into the ring he tears everything apart including his opponent. He uses his version of the camel clutch to cripple opponents and gain victories, but he keeps on attacking his opponent after the match is over which gets him disqualified. The T.R.W. commissioner has warned both Merga and Zoltan for their actions. It could mean a suspension if they don't pay heed.

The Incredible Bulk is the super-



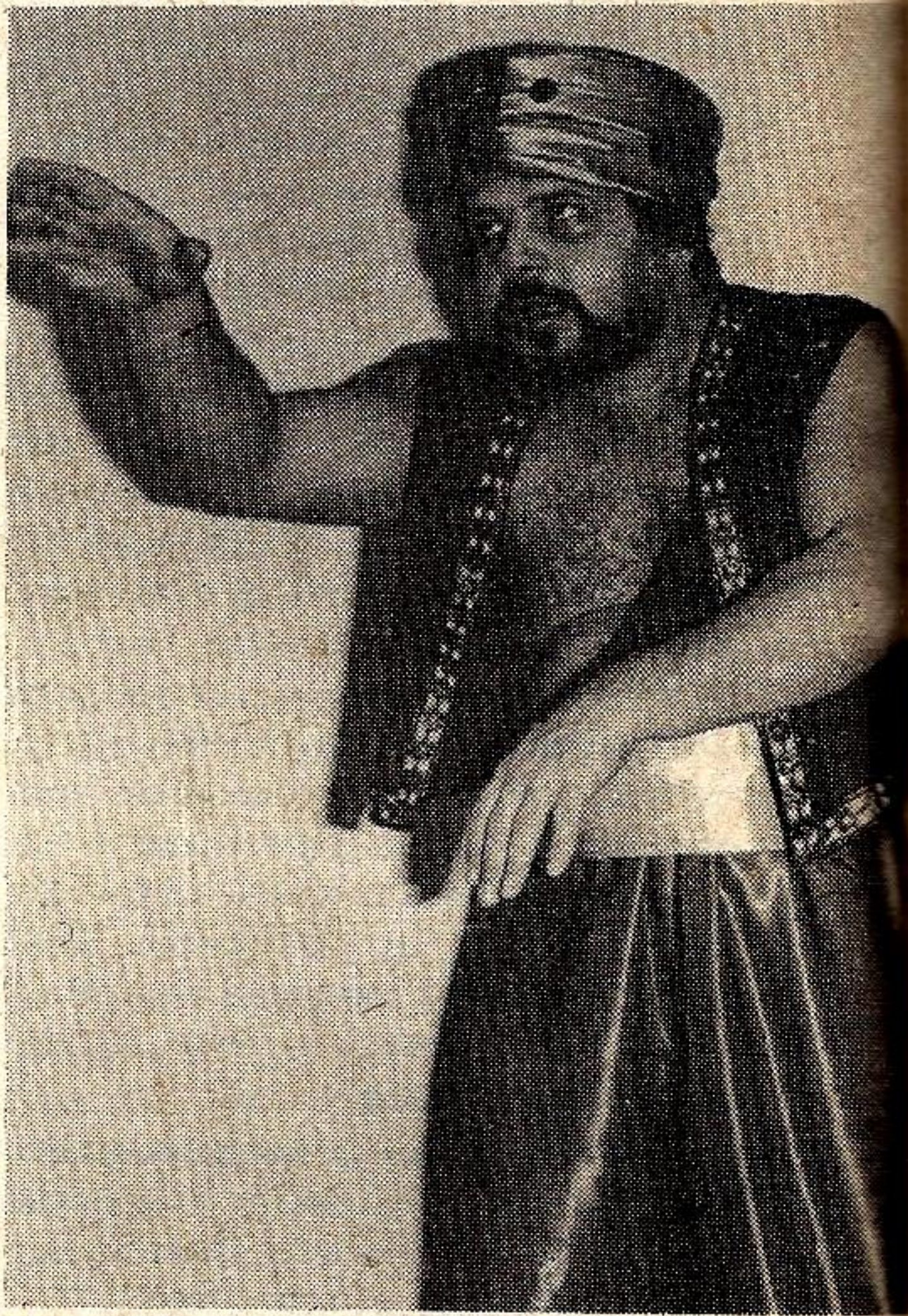
Monster Murdock is a tough customer at 6-foot-4 and 320 pounds.



Zoltan The Great is usually dishing out punishment, but here he's on the receiving end as Billy Berger chokes him for interfering in his match with Egor Koloff.

heavyweight in this area at the present time. The masked menace has been beating opponents two or three at a time in handicap matches. His manager Killer Miller hasn't been seen in the area lately and many of the fans are glad he isn't.

Teaser Mike Dupree is one of the most interesting grapplers the sport has to offer as he seems to have a split personality as far as wrestling is concerned. His frequent tag-team partner Charming Joey Cagel is also his frequent enemy. Cagel is really baffled, at times, by his partner's tactics, but states he is the only one who understands how his partner's mind works. They wrestle as one of wrestling's grappling tag teams, then Dupree becomes one of the most



Morocco's Merga Lazarr faces suspension from the TRWA if he doesn't clean up his act and cut down on the disqualifications.

scientific wrestlers around when fighting solo.

Dangerous Dizzy McShane is fuming mad, he lost the Central heavyweight championship to Chief Don Red Cloud in an elimination match. Both men have been fudging and it finally came to a head. This also marks the first time that they've had a decisive winner in their feud. Dizzy says the feud has just begun and Red Cloud will be nothing but a bunch of chicken feathers when he

gets through with him.

McShane seems to be in a lot of fuds lately as he is also fueding with Red Cloud's tag-team partner Bobby White Feather and the Continental Wrestling Congress junior heavy-weight Champion Dov Abrams.

Wild Buck Slattery has gone on a United States tour which will include a three-month stay in Arizona, but he promises to return his special kind of mat mayhem to the West Virginia area.

Promoter Ken Jugan and the offices of TRW are proud to have five of the leading lady wrestlers in the area — Jeannie Harrel, Cindy Lee, Alice Cooper, Rita Cheviz, and two new lady wrestlerettes, Dody Cagel and Polly Darton. The men in



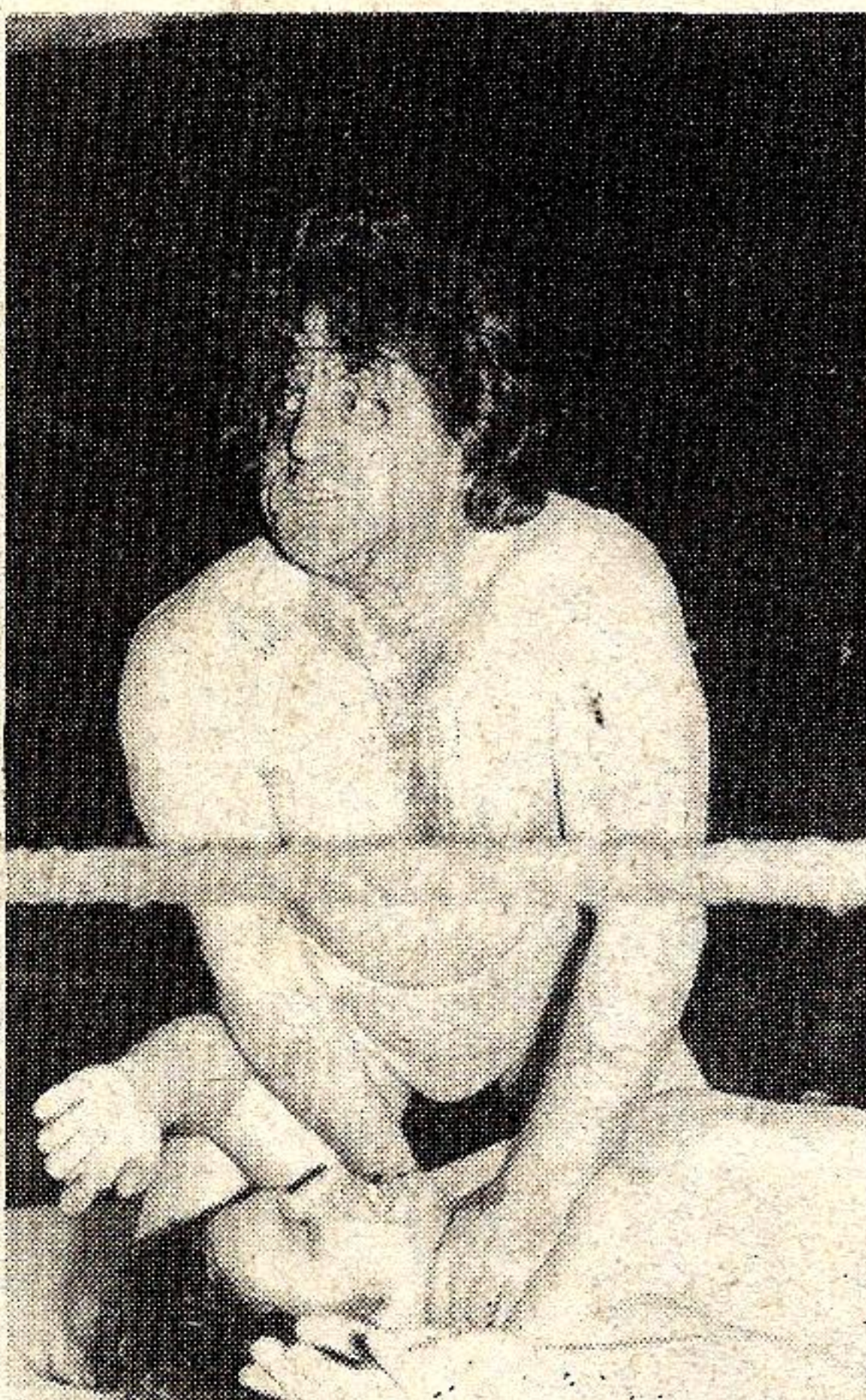
Alice Cooper is one of the top women wrestlers in the West Virginia area. As you can see, she bears no resemblance to the rock star of the same name.

the audiences have really enjoyed the ladies in action.

Bobby White Feather has beaten 'Macho Man' Bob Fulton for the coveted West Virginia state championship. In the first fall, Fulton pinned White Feather with the help of the ropes. Then, White Feather went on the war path and had Fulton begging for mercy as the Indian took the second fall with a diving headbutt from the top rope and a Indian Surfboard which made the 'Macho Man' say uncle. The third fall saw Fulton try some underhanded deeds

and his head was met with a chair from White Feather in repayment for all the dirty tactics he inflicted. Fulton was bleeding profusely and White Feather applied a reverse craddle for the win. The fans went wild and carried the Indian back to the dressing room in celebration. One fan remarked that that was the most exciting match he has ever seen in his 75 years. Incidentally, White Feather has accepted an offer for an overseas tour of Central and South America. Good Luck, Bobby.

The only man who can rival Dizzy McShane for fuds is the lightweight champion, Zoltan the Great from Helsinki, Finland. The zany Finn has been fueding with just about every-



Dangerous Dizzy McShane is bloody but unbowed as he chokes Bobby White Feather.

Here's a list of wrestlings he is fueding with Chief Black Eagle, Jimmy Watson, Rick Jensen, Hungry Jack, Billy Berger, and the no. 1 ranked contender for his belt, Fidel Castrol.

Castrol has returned to the area after taking a couple of months rest following the Cuban Street Fight with Zoltan. While on vacation, Fidel acquired a few surprises for Zoltan and is hoping to rid the title of the fungus polluting it.

Zoltan was also on a vacation of sorts when he returned to his native

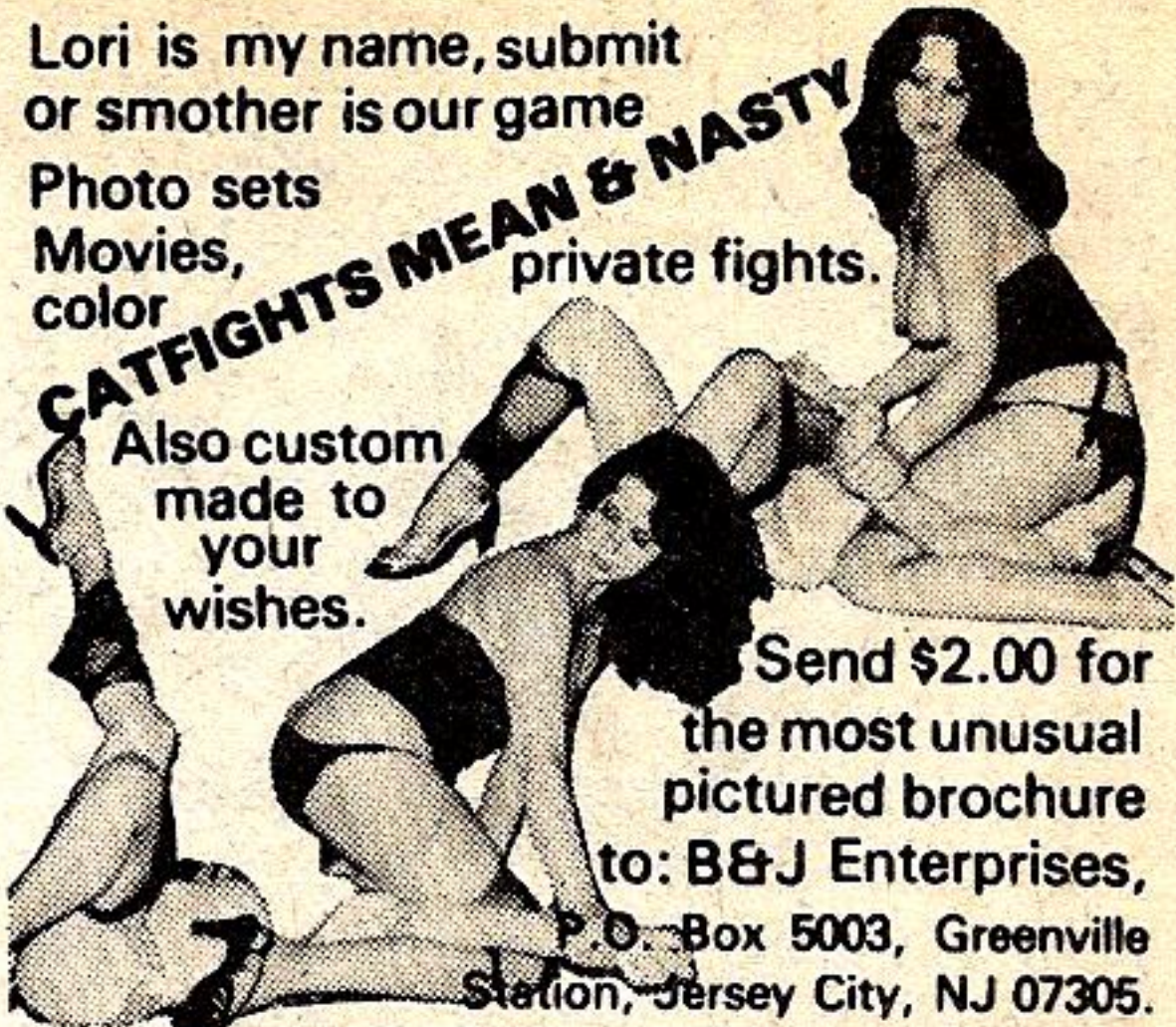
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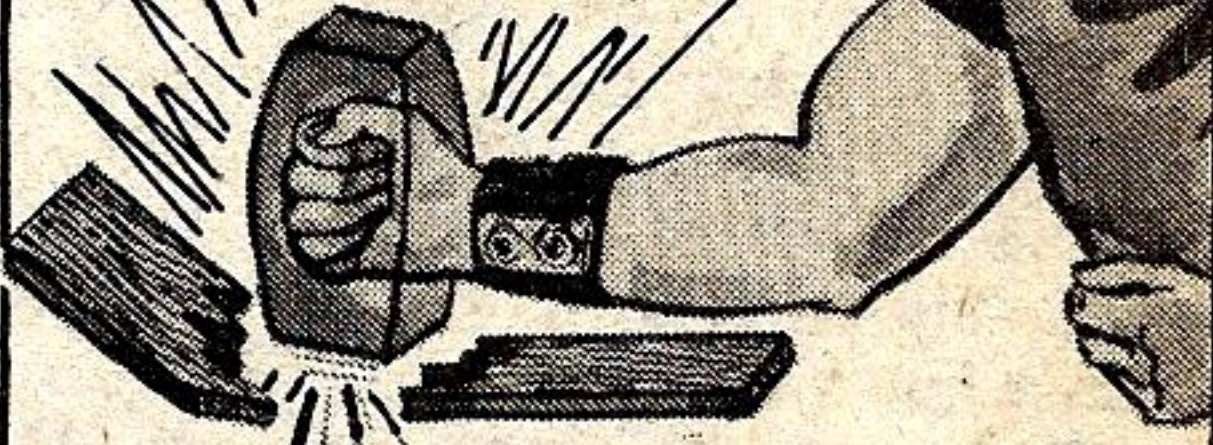
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Finland. He commented that the weather was beautiful, 28 degrees below zero. Zoltan has abandoned his former finishing hold, the Helsinki Butterfly, for a new torture, claiming that his old hold was getting boring. He now uses what he calls the "Big S Splash" off the top rope which, if he so pleases, will break a man's ribs.

Another masked man entered the Mountain State in the person of the Red Cannibal from Uganda. This masked maniac is another protege of Zoltan the Great. He has already started a feud with Chief Black Eagle after their first battle, he was challenged by Black Eagle to a hair vs. mask match in Grafton. This is due to the fact that in their last match Black Eagle almost had the Cannibal's mask off when the Incredible Bulk and Zoltan the Great attacked him from behind.

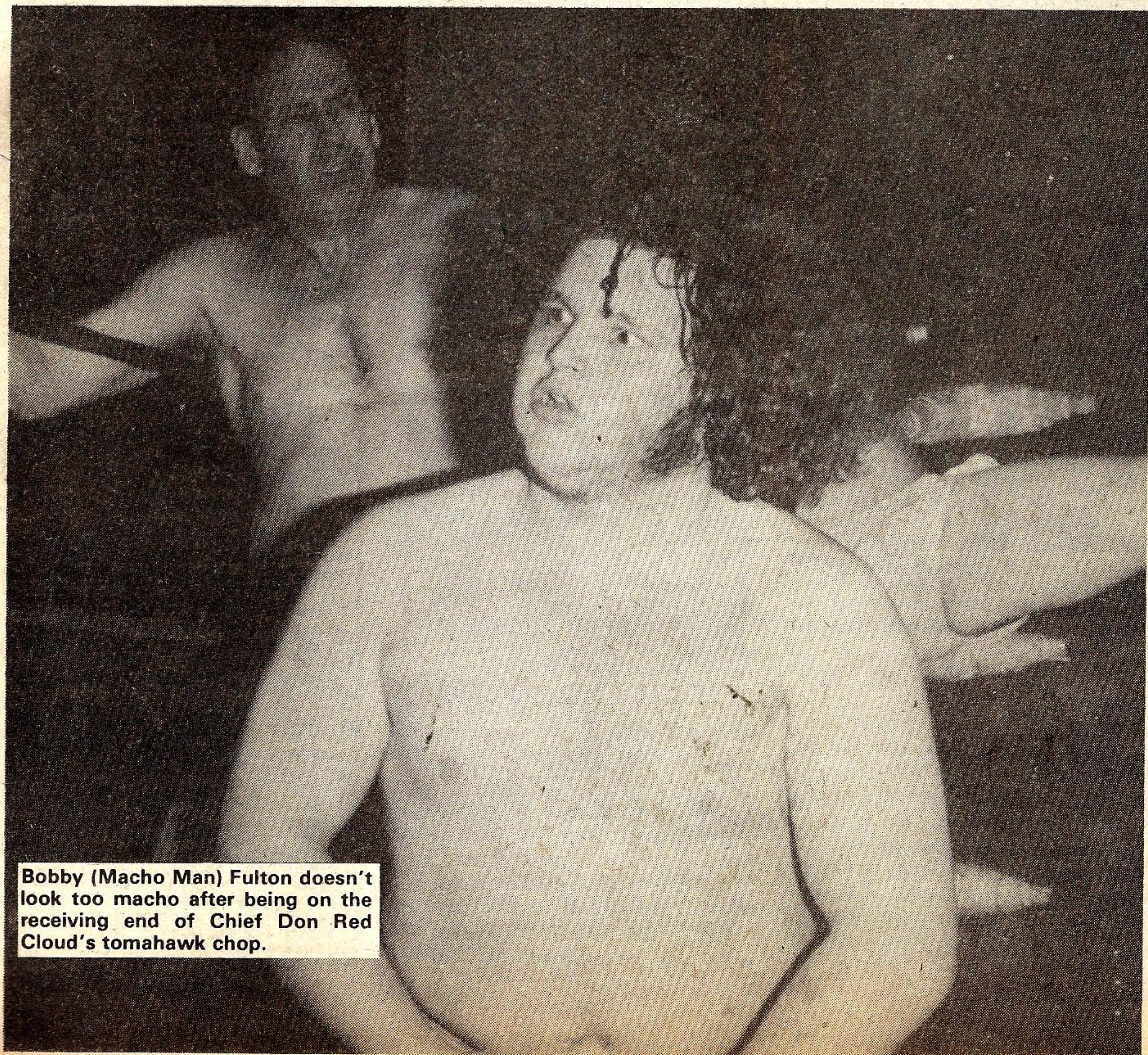


Television has the Incredible Hulk but West Virginia has the Incredible Bulk.

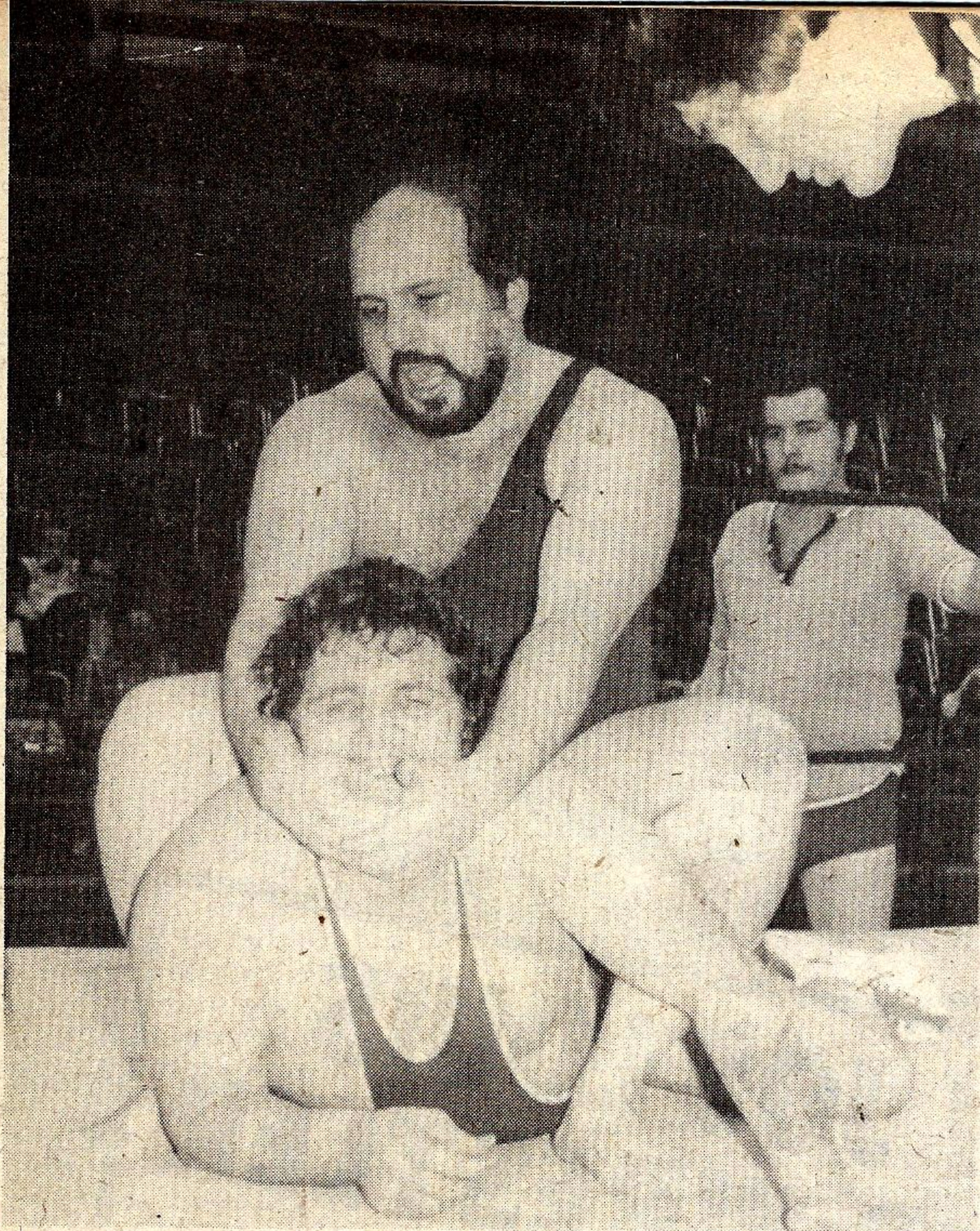
Egor Koloff had headed for Florida, where the International Sex Symbol' is rumored to be tearing up the rings. He has Zoltan the Great's sister Zelda with him to interfere in the matches when the going gets too hot.

'Every woman's dream' is the new name Zoltan the Great wants to be announced as. Fidel Castrol has agreed to take part in Zoltan's Russian Chain Match in Grafton. Maybe this time the Cuban Sensation will win the title.

The leading cities in the West Virginia area under the Three River Wrestling Association banner are Clarksburgh, Fairmont, Weston, Grafton, Elkins, Parkersburgh and Salem. The TRWA is the most active independent area in the world, along with being the mecca of the finest wrestling stars in the area.



Bobby (Macho Man) Fulton doesn't look too macho after being on the receiving end of Chief Don Red Cloud's tomahawk chop.



Referee Jim Ingras asks Rick Jensen if he wants to give up after falling victim to Merga Lazarr's camel clutch.

OFFICIAL TRWA RATINGS

CENTRAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION CHIEF DON RED CLOUD

1. Dizzy McShane
2. Monster Murdock
3. Jerry Graham Jr.
4. Red Cannibal
5. Bob (Macho Man) Fulton
6. Charmin' Joey Cagle

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CHAMPION BOBBY WHITE FEATHER

1. Monster Murdock
2. Bob (Macho Man) Fulton
3. Dizzy McShane
4. Merga Lazarr
5. Jerry Graham Jr.
6. Jim Watson

LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION ZOLTAN THE GREAT

1. Fidel Castrol
2. Chief Black Eagle
3. Teaser Mike Dupree
4. Rick Jensen
5. Hungry Jack
6. Billy Berger

TAG-TEAM CHAMPION *Title Vacant*

1. Chief Don Red Cloud and Bobby White Feather
2. Wild Buck Slattery and The Great Lucifer
3. Dizzy McShane and Bob (Macho Man) Fulton
4. The Incredible Bulk and Red Cannibal
5. Teaser Mike Dupree and Charmin' Joey Cagle

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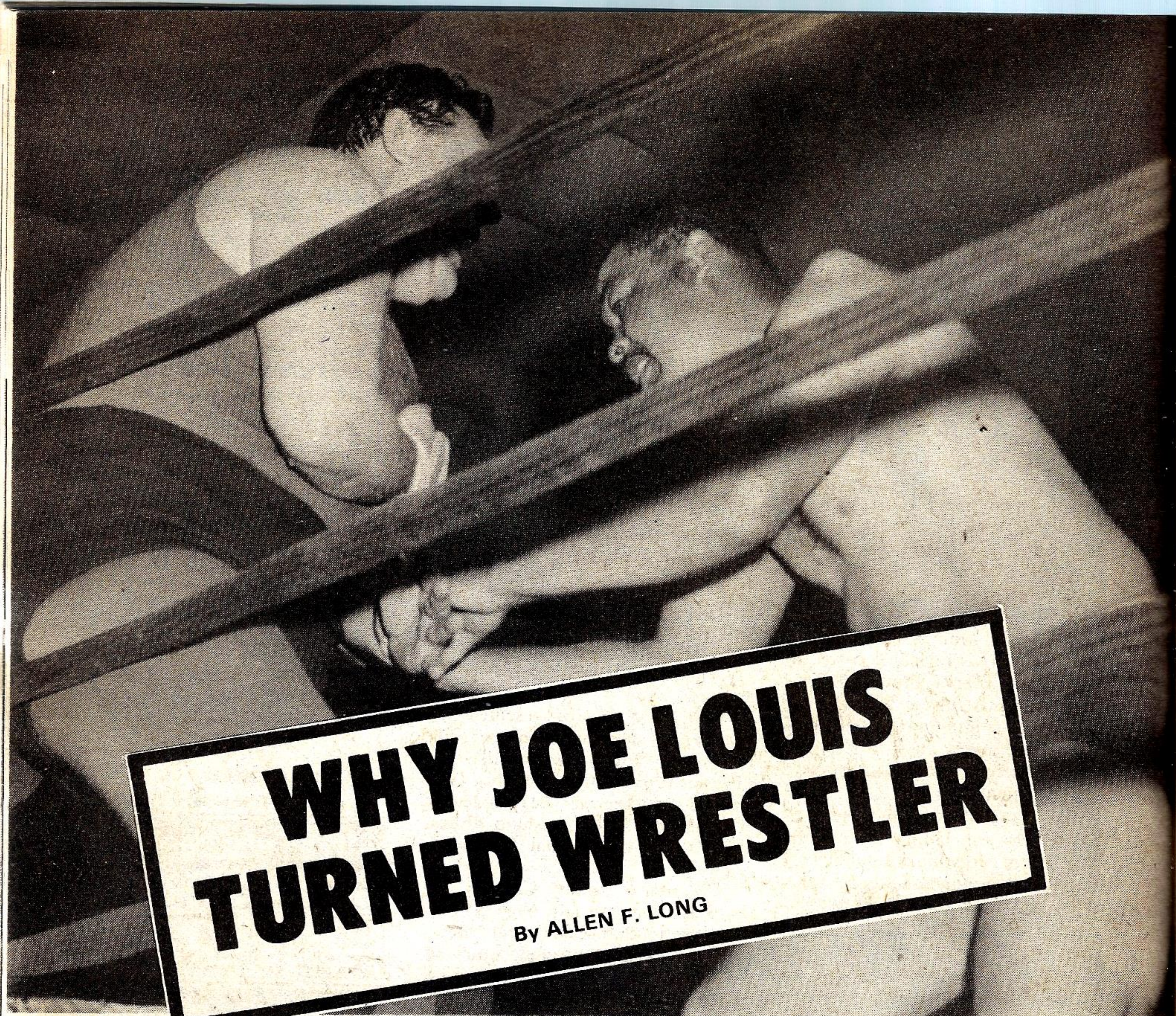


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WHY JOE LOUIS TURNED WRESTLER

By ALLEN F. LONG

▲ Joe Louis was a great boxer, but his wrestling career was both brief and undistinguished. Here, Louis (right) has Cowboy Rocky Lee on the defensive during their bout on April 16, 1956, in Philadelphia.

Joe Louis simply lost three of his 71 professional boxing bouts and held the world heavyweight championship far longer than anybody else. But for many years, the U.S. International Revenue Service had him trapped in a corner.

Five nights before Halloween in 1951, a much younger Rocky Marciano stopped the balding Louis in the eighth round at Gotham's capacious Madison Square Garden. John Roxborough, an ex-gambler from Detroit who used to co-pilot Louis with a Chicago mortician named Julian Black, has declared, "I heard Marciano's manager, Al Weill, crowing about his fighter's victory, 'My boy knocked out the great Joe Louis', he chortled. That made me

angry. I went up to him and said, 'Al, your boy didn't knock out the great Joe Louis, he beat Joe Louis's shadow.'

By then, the Federal Government was adding approximately \$270 a day in interest to Louis's mammoth tax bill. Although he didn't realize it for quite a while, his pugilistic career was finished except for some not very lucrative exhibitions.

Marshall Miles, a realty operator, had succeeded Roxborough as Louis's top adviser in 1946. "What he didn't throw away on bad investments", Miles lamented, "Louis spent on good times."

Journalists Hype Igoe and Walter Stewart has shown Louis how to play golf during the mid-1930s. In the

interim, Louis had supposedly dropped a fortune on numerous links. One of his occasional golfing partners would claim: "A guy built a house in California with the money he took Joe for."

Mannie Seamon was Louis's last trainer. "They should have called him 'can't say no Joe,'" Seamon has noted. "He was his own worst enemy. He liked fun and laughter and guys clowning around and he paid for all of it. Anyone could give him a hard-luck story and as soon as it was over, he would reach in his pocket and pay."

Louis possessed an inextinguishable desire for new clothes. In 1939 alone, he bought three dozen shirts, 20 suits, a couple of tuxedos, several camel-hair jackets with leather piping which designed himself, and inordinate quantities of hats, sport coats, slacks, ties, socks and undergarments.

Louis had emphasized that he truly adored his ravishing first wife, the former Marva Trotter. During their two marriages, however, he reportedly committed adultery with females he barely knew at Harlem's Hotel Theresa and less celebrated establishments.

She divorced Louis in early 1945, as he was concluding his military obligation. "Joe thinks I ought to be happy", the quondam stenographer from the Midwest remarked, "because I've got all the material things any woman could want. But it's no fun being alone all the time."

Billy Conn failed to avenge his first defeat by Louis at Yankee Stadium on June 19, 1946. The ensuing month, Louis wedded Marva again.

William Rowe, a newspaperman-cum-flack, had been extremely close to Louis since 1935. "When Joe would walk into a place" Rowe has disclosed "the price of everything went up right away. People would figure he could make the money, that he had the money, why shouldn't he pay it out. He would invite it. He had been a guy who had nothing and now suddenly he had millions, or at least thousands. So he would never look at a check."

Lillie Barrow Brooks, Louis's dear mother, died of heart disease at the age of 63 in 1953. He shed plenty of tears at her funeral.

Mrs. Brooks's children divided up her estate, estimated at \$5,500.

Eventually, the I.R.S. confiscated Joe's portion \$667.

Rose Morgan, an attractive supplier of beauty shop and cosmetic products, became the second Mrs. Louis in 1955. They had vastly overestimated each other's financial assets.

"I tried to make him settle down", she has avowed. "I told him he couldn't sleep all day and stay out all night any more. Once he asked me why not, and I told him I would worry and wouldn't be able to sleep. So he said he would wait till I fell asleep before going out. Well, I stayed up till 4-a.m. and then he fell asleep."

He wasn't on the verge of embarking upon a series of wrestling matches, Louis insisted on the morning of March 10, 1956. Prior to dusk, he agreed to grapple for Philadelphia promoter Ray Fabiani.

Fabiani had guaranteed him a hundred grand per annum. Louis was 64 days away from his 42nd birthday and weighed a flabby 240 pounds.

His latest missus resented her husband's decision. "To me", she stressed, "Joe Louis is like the President of the United States. How would you like to see the President of the United States washing dishes? That's how I feel about Joe wrestling."

Columnists Jimmy Cannon and Arthur Daley virtually begged Louis in print to change his mind. "Beats stealing", Louis answered, "don't it?"

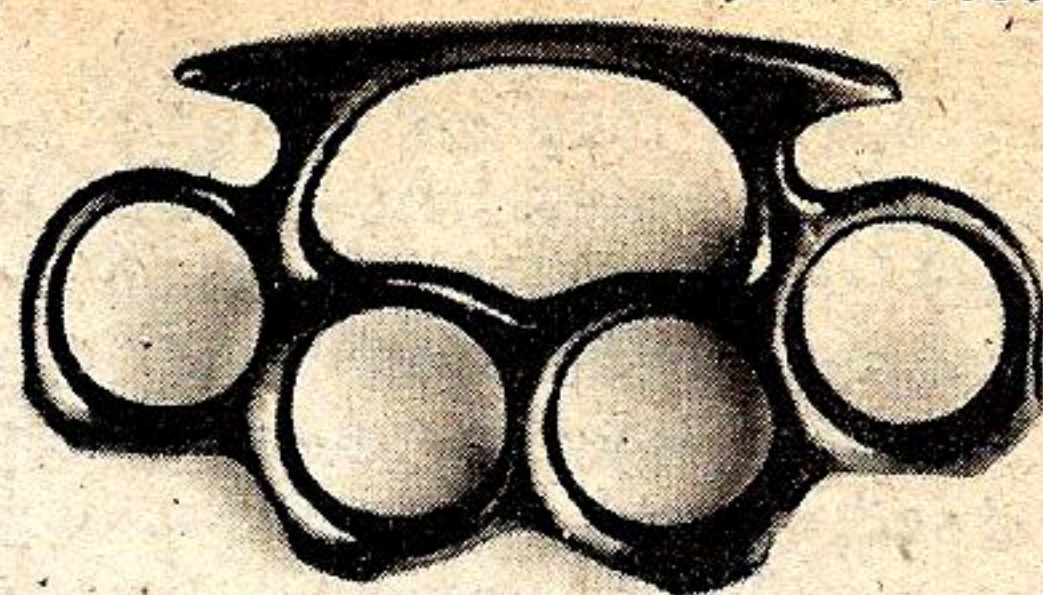
Fabiani employed Buddy (Nature Boy) Rogers to give Louis a crash course in grunting and groaning. An erstwhile cop, Rogers had engaged in the vicinity of 2,500 wrestling duels.

Uline Arena in Washington, D.C., could accommodate 11,000 individuals for a wrestling card. On the evening of March 16, merely 40 per cent or so of its seats were occupied for Louis' formal introduction to wrestling.

Jersey Joe Walcott was the referee. He had attempted in vain to dethrone Louis in 1947 and 1948, yet twice floored him in their initial encounter.

Louis entered the ring without a customary robe. He wore non-descript trunks. A towel was draped over his broad shoulders.

The 325-pound Cowboy Rocky Lee was Louis' foe. It took Louis 11 minutes to dispose of him.



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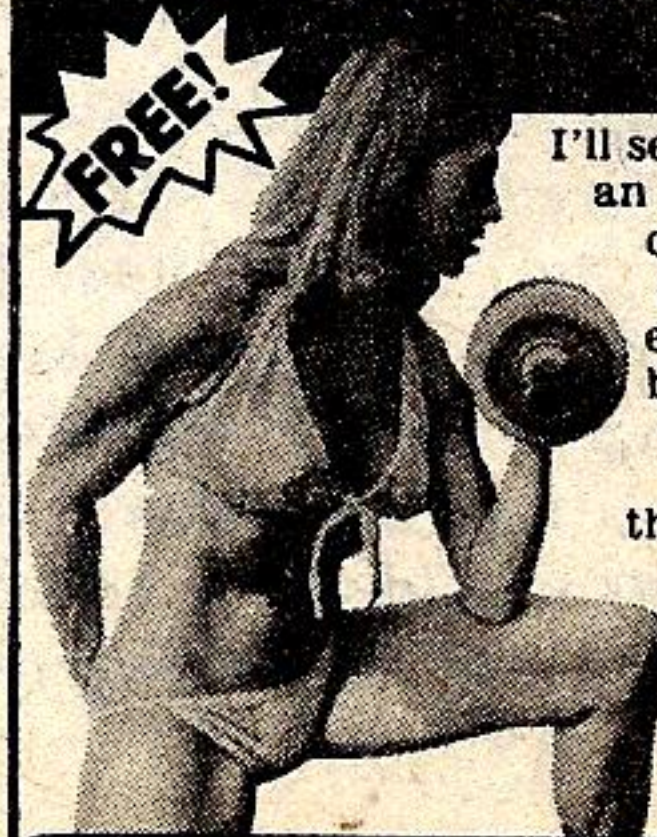
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Life Magazine commented: "The real boxing fans are a flinty lot. Nothing surprises them and they are rarely sentimental. But when Joe Louis recently returned to the ring as a wrestler, they were dumbfounded and sad. So, too, were other millions who rate Joe as immortal, the only boxer who was king of the heavy-weights for almost 12 years. As a man, his honesty and simplicity kept him great. Thus, the idea of the Brown Bomber mixing with wrestlers, a collection of muscled clowns, who wear sequins and spend hours with hairdressers, is incongruous and unhappy."

Save for Fort Lauderdale, Louis wasn't allow to wrestle Caucasians south of the Mason-Dixon Line. When his fellow blacks were barred from watching him wrestle in St. Petersburg, he contributed his \$248 purse to the nearest chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Infrequently, Louis was disqualified for utilizing strictly boxing tactics. Otherwise, he was not defeated.

That spring, Lee stomped Louis' left side during their rematch in Columbus, Ohio. Several of Louis' ribs were cracked.

On July 16, Louis route Bozo Brown at a small gymnasium in Round Lake, Ill. Louis' share of the gate came to \$155. It proved to be his final appearance as a pro athlete.

Dr. Irvin Slott examined boxers and wrestlers for the Illinois State Athletic Commission. On July 23, Slott announced Louis was physically unfit to wrestle in Illinois on account of a cardiac abnormality.

Louis continued to receive an annual salary of \$20,000 from the International Boxing Club. The following summer, though, a United States District Court Judge known as Sylvester J. Ryan correctly ruled that the monopolistic IBC would have to be disbanded.

Well-nigh half a decade later, Louis philosophized: "I ain't sorry I fought when I did. In my time, I made \$5,000,000, wound up broke, and owe the Government \$1,000,000 in taxes. If I was fighting today, I'd earn \$10,000,000, would still wind up broke and would owe the Government \$2,000,000 in taxes."

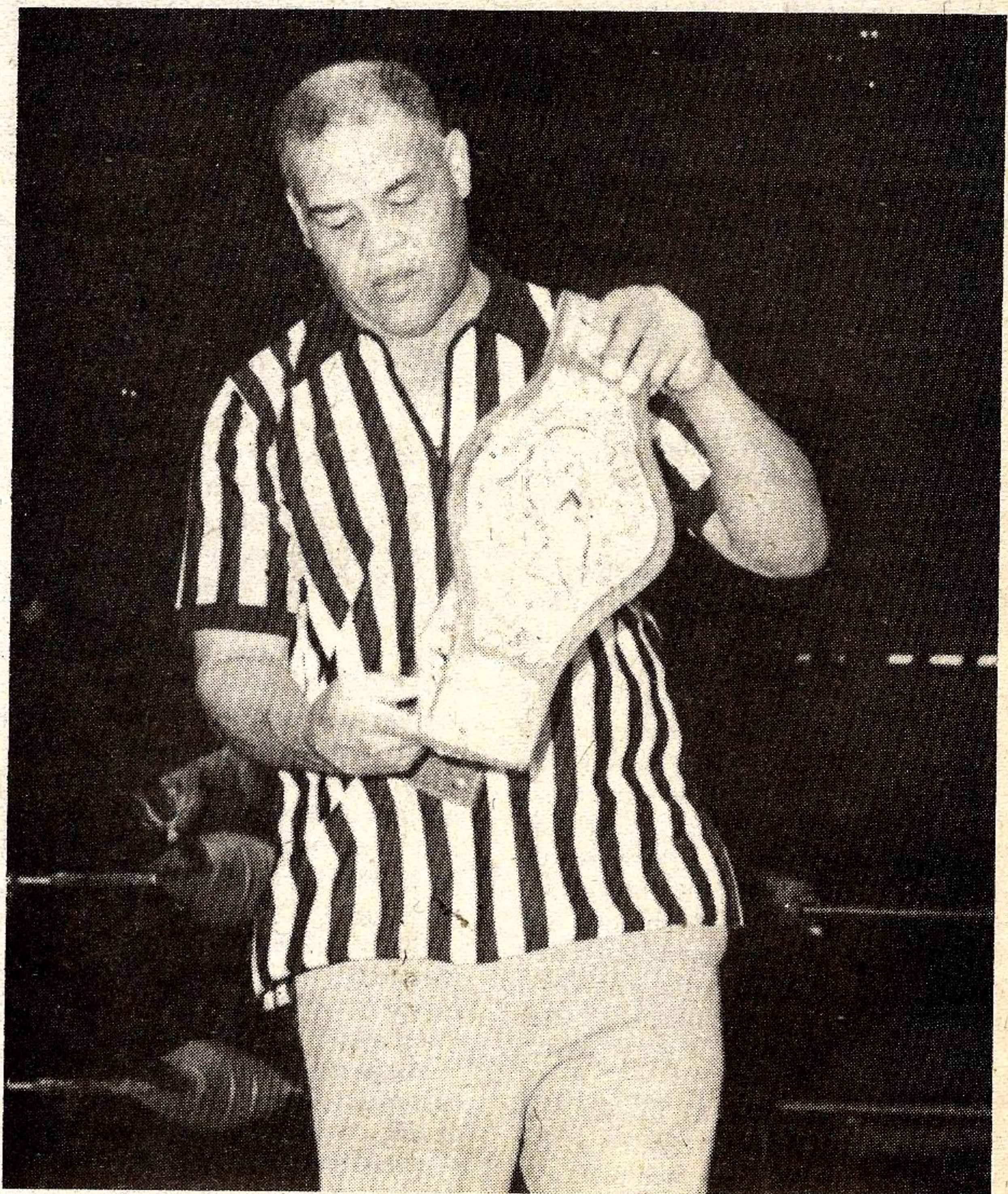
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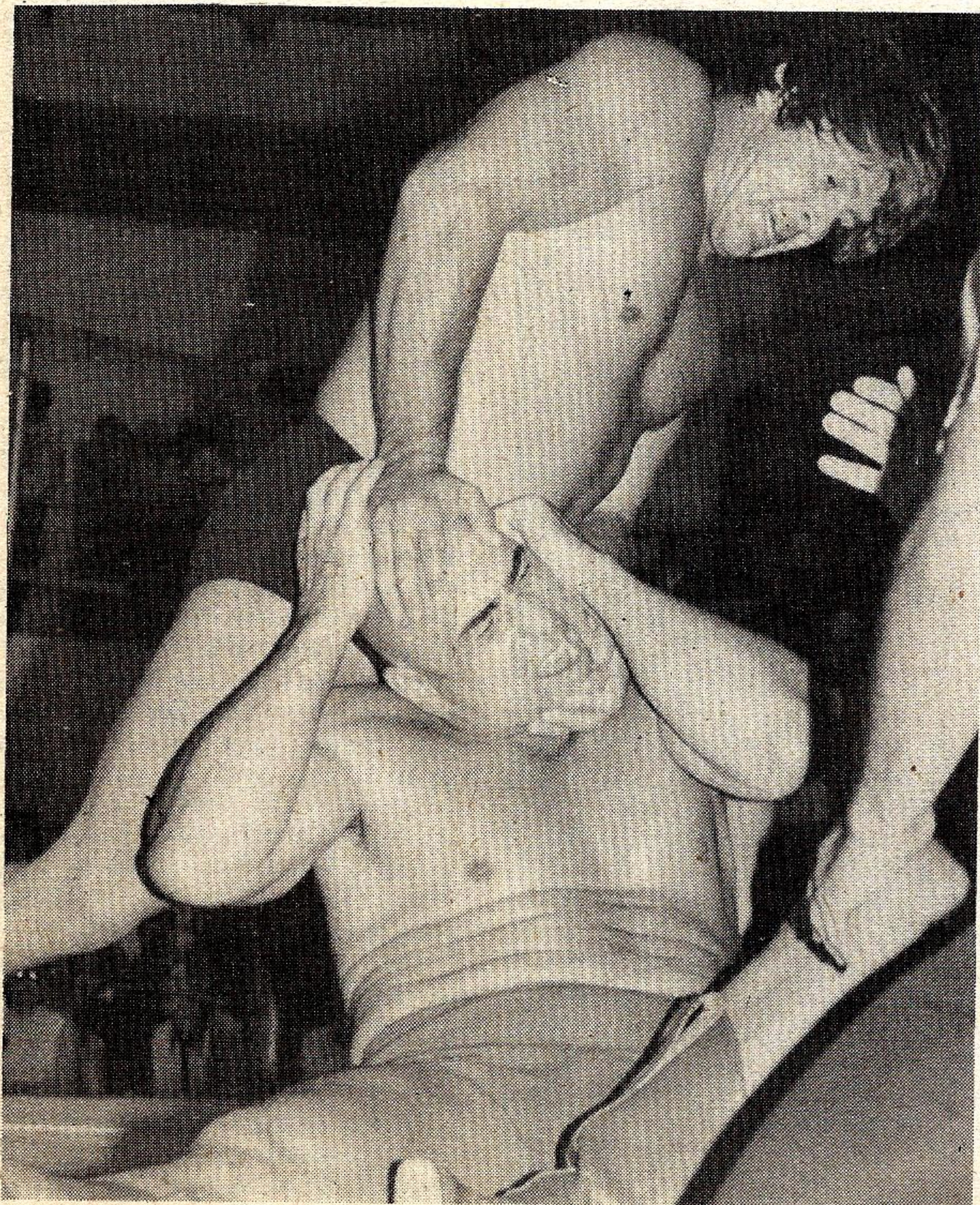
When his days as a competitor were over, promoters often used Joe Louis as a wrestling referee, hoping his name would attract more fans.

International Wrestling Scene

by TOM BURKE

Headline news from the Sunshine state is that former National Wrestling Alliance champion, Buddy (Nature Boy) Rogers is making a comeback. He appeared on a televised wrestling card in Tampa and has also taken part in several single and tag-team matches. The former champion stated his goal is to secure the NWA championship again. In order to get his crack at the NWA belt he has issued a challenge to Harley Race and has offered a side bet of \$25,000 to the champion. That is really something and the former U.S. champion still has what it takes to make his opponents yell "uncle" when he applies that famous figure-four leglock.

Down in Winston-Salem, the women's tag-team title changed hands. Vickie Williams and Joyce Grable lost their belt to the duo of Judy Martin and Leilani Kai. The former champions held the belts for some three years, winning the title in New York's Madison Square Garden when they defeated the terrors of ladies wrestling, Donna Christanello and Toni Rose. The new champs are willing to face the blonde bombshells in a rematch as they are also itching to get the duo back in the ring and prove to everyone why they are the champs. Two other ladies of the mat who would like to meet Kai and Martin are the American Wrestling Association women's tag-team title-



One of the Southland's fiercest feuds is the one between Ron Garvin and the Mongolian Stomper with Garvin holding the upper hand in this photo.

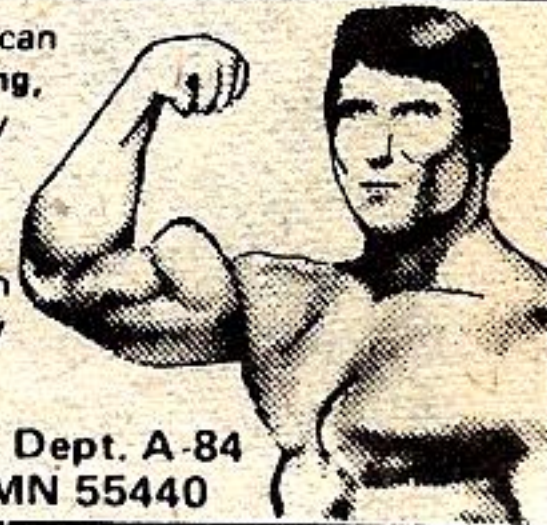
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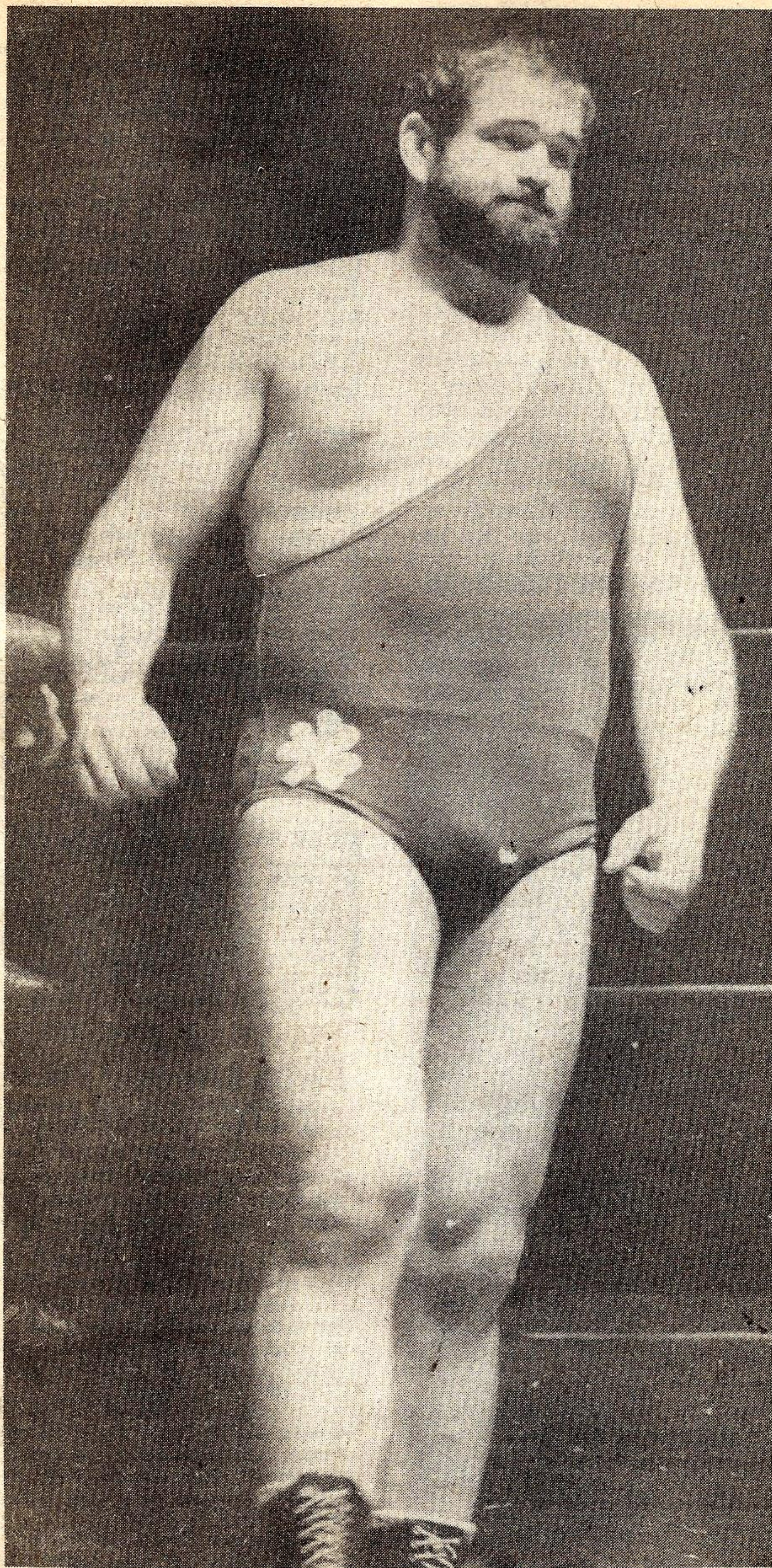
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Big John Quinn doesn't need the luck of the Irish to win most of his matches.

holders, Natasha and Beverly Shade. Wonder what promoter will sign this foursome? Watch the sparks fly when these girls battle it out.

One of the longest feuds in pro wrestling continues to be waged in the South as Ron Garvin and the Mongolian Stomper continue to do battle. Their war has brought many fans to the edge of their seats. Currently wrestling for promoter Jerry Jarrett in Memphis, Tenn., these two have topped the card for sometime now and the fans have sided with the popular Gravin.

Other news from Tennessee is that the duo of yesterday known as the Dillinger Gang, comprised of Don Fargo and Chris Colt, are now at each other's throats in Gulas land. The former tag-team partners and champions have had a falling-out which has resulted in one of the biggest feuds in the southland. Fargo is a fan favorite teaming with the likes of George Gulas and Tommy Heggie. Colt, on the other hand, has Gypsy Joe as his new partner. Nothing short of an all-out war will stop these two.

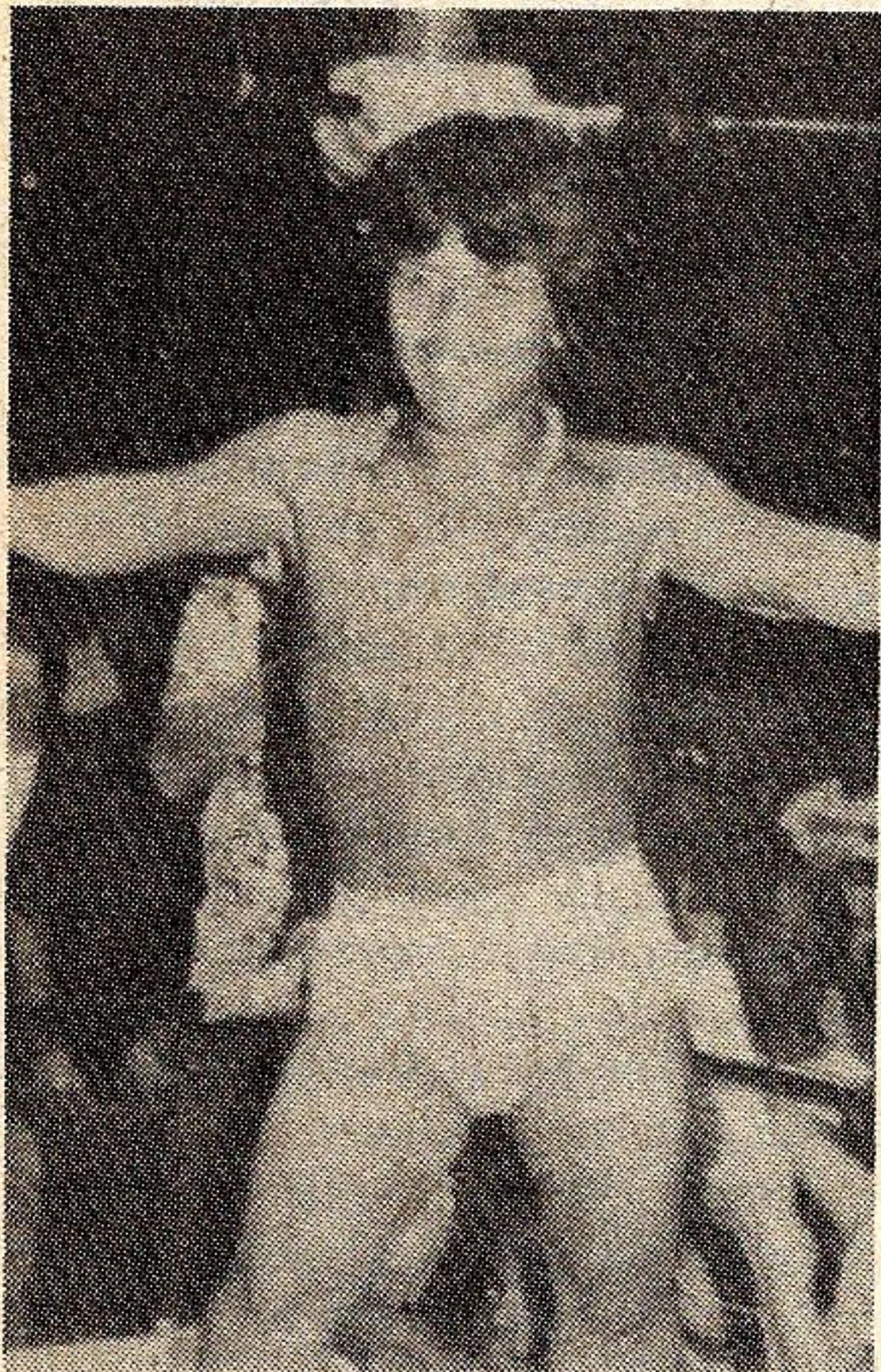
The brother combination of Terry and Dory Funk Jr. has been giving fans across the country the opportunity to see thier unique style of wrestling. A top-flight, tag-team duo these two former NWA champions are out to secure the gravy of the wrestling world by defeating any teams put up against them. One of the most interesting brother teams in the world, the Funks are making a nationwide tour.

Wild Bull Curry continues to thrill wrestling fans in Texas with his unique style. Wild Bull Curry recently sold out Gavelston, Texas, when he met up with Eddie Sullivan. The veteran Curry continues to be a credit to the sport. He has a large following in the Lone Star State as the former Hartford cop can do no wrong in Texas. Not only a top-flight wrestler the ex-brass knuckles champion is also a top NWA referee in Texas. He had been called a troubleshooter by Houston mat promoter Paul Boesch. When a third man is need to keep law and order, then Wild Bull Curry is called for.

Hawaii seeing a different look with the combined promotional talents of Steve Rickard of New Zealand and Ed Francis. The island hot spot will be seeing some of the top-notch

talent from Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and elsewhere.

Promoter Vince McMahon and World Wide Wrestling Federation President Hirashi Shinma have pooled their talents to promote a series of matches in Japan. Known as the 'Madison Square Garden' series, it will feature top talent from the WWF and Japan as well as big names from outside the WWF. A few of the participants include: Bob Backlund, Ted DiBiase, Larry Zbysko, Tony Garea, Stan Hansen, Jack Brisco, Andre The Giant, Victor Rivera, Steve Travis and manager Fred Blassie, who will take part as a aid to



Since joining the grappling game's mighty mites, Coconut Willie has become the most popular performer since Little Beaver.

his proteges.

Fans in Northern California will be seeing some new talent from Amarillo, Texas with such stars as Mr. Pogo, Mr. Sato, Dennis Stamp, Larry Lane, Grizzly Boone, Rip Hawk, Blackjack Mulligan and Merced Solis.

Battling Pat Roach the internationally known wrestler from England, will soon be seen on American mats as he is the midst of talking contracts with various promoters from the United States and Canada. Roach is no stranger to European wrestling fans as he has won several Continental tournaments and is eager to come to North America and meet any of the champions.

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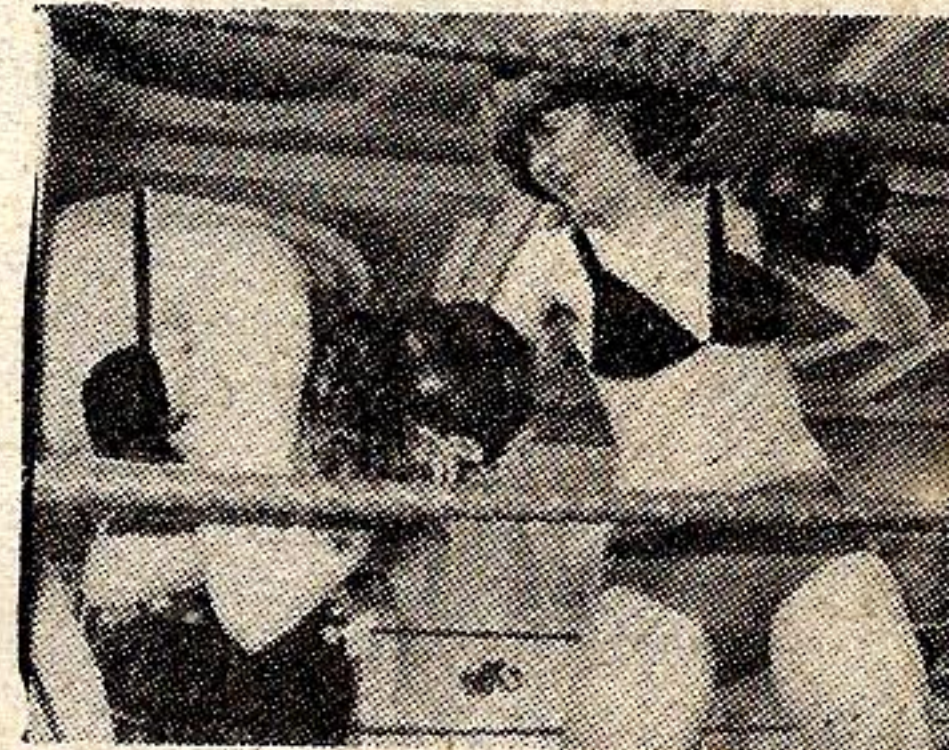
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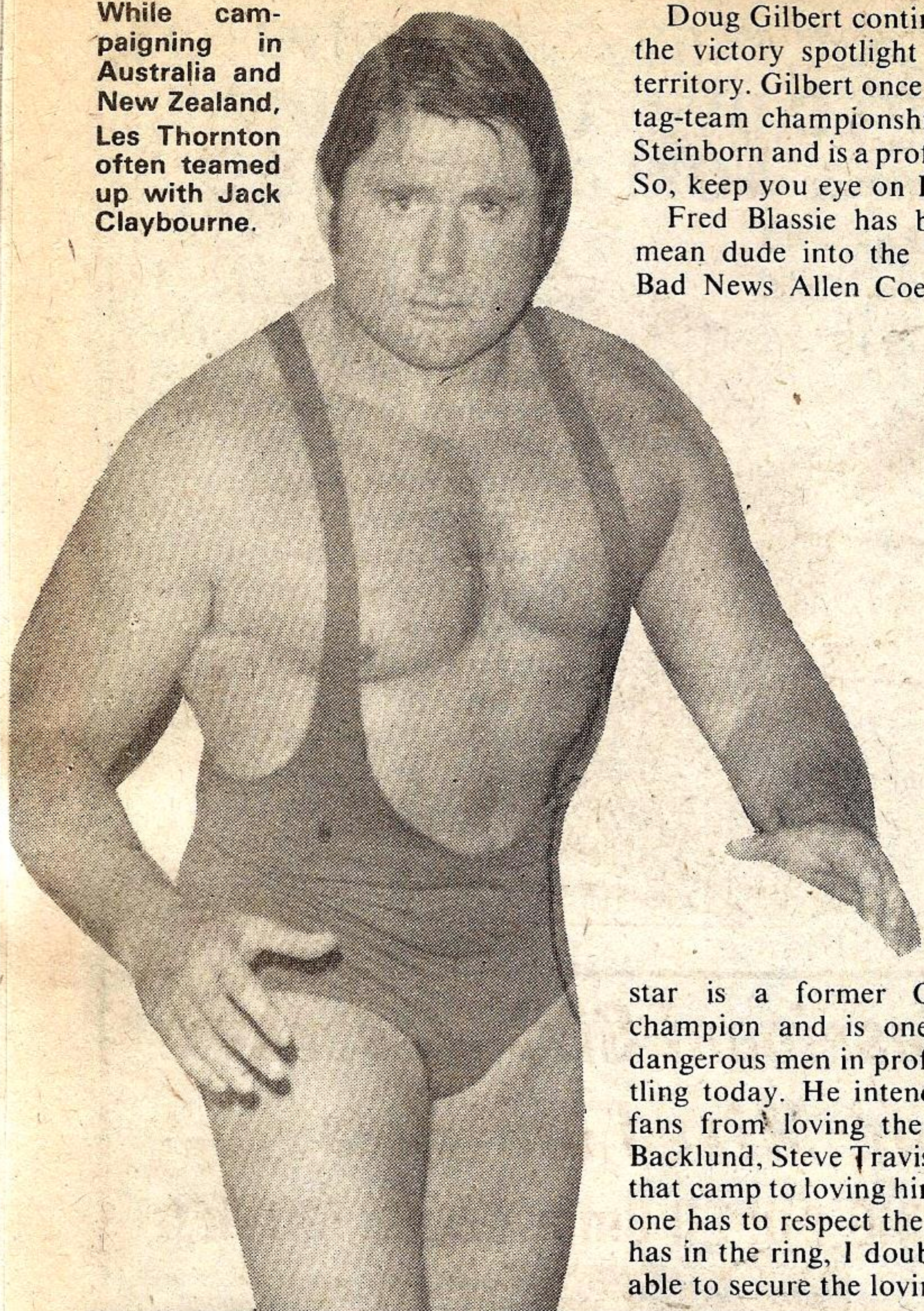


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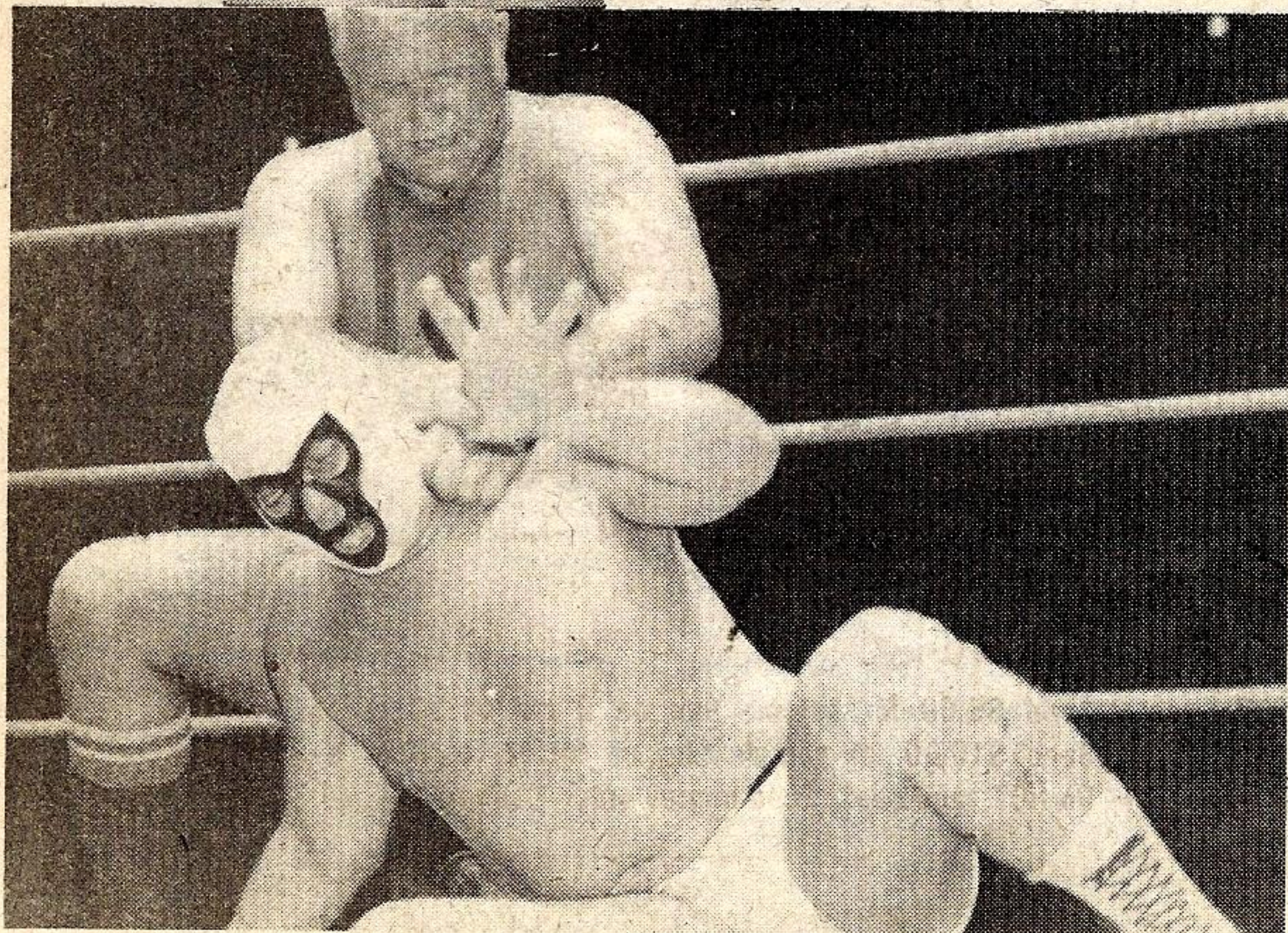
While campaigning in Australia and New Zealand, Les Thornton often teamed up with Jack Claybourne.



Doug Gilbert continues to accupy the victory spotlight in the AWA territory. Gilbert once held the AWA tag-team championship with Dickie Steinborn and is a professional's pro. So, keep you eye on Doug Gilbert.

Fred Blassie has brought a real mean dude into the WWF area in Bad News Allen Coege. The black

star is a former Olympic judo champion and is one of the must dangerous men in professional wrestling today. He intends to turn the fans from loving the likes of Bob Backlund, Steve Travis and others in that camp to loving him. As much as one has to respect the ability Coege has in the ring, I doubt if he will be able to secure the loving feelings are



Harley Race, shown here applying a nerve hold, has had his hands full whenever he has tangled with Mr. Wrestling II.

held by these favorites.

From California comes word that a new wrestler from New Zealand is really making a name for himself out there. He is Del Adams. Adams is in the United States for one thing and that is to get a rematch with Nelson Royal for the NWA junior heavy-weight championship. It seems Royal was on a world tour in the summer of 1978, and had a match with Adams in Perth, Australia.

The match was a two-out-three fall affair with a 60-minute time limit. The first fall went to Royal after 10 minutes when he caught Adams with a reverse cradle. The second fall went to Adams with a sleeper after 42 minutes of fast, furious action. The third fall found Royal still drowsy and Adams clamped the sleeper on several times, however, Royal keep getting to the ropes. Then in a last effort Adams threw Royal into the ropes and caught him in the sleeper as he bounced off. It was all over for Royal, the crowd was going wild, but just as Adams clamped the deadly sleeper on, the bell rang. The time limit was up. If the term saved by a bell, was ever true it was for Royal. The champion hasn't returned to Australia or New Zealand and Adams decided to come over here for his rematch.

Stan (The Man) Stasiak is making a big impression with fans in the Midwest. He has become the 'heart stopper' for many wrestlers in the area and is hoping to get a crack at the United states championship. Stasiak's new robe is quite the thing, it features a big red heart with a fist going right through it. The heart punch is Stasiak's trademark.

He's big bad and the hit of Los Angeles wrestling. He is Leroy Brown. Actions speak louder then words and Brown is showing why he is becoming the most popular wrestler to hit the L.A. area in quite a few years. His feud with Black Gordman is one of the most sensational since John Tolos and Fred Blassie had their war. Brown is a big lad who has only been wrestling for the last few years but he has made a great impression with fans on the West Coast. His aim is to win the Americas championship.

The wrestling world has seen a lot of big men in the last few years, however, with the comeback of the Mighty Big Foot things are looking

interesting. Big Foot is seven feet tall and hits the scales at 400 pounds. He was out of action for four months due to an injury, however, he is now back in action and wrestling once again for promoter Roger Reed of Rochester, N.Y. Big Foot is doing well and is hoping to secure a match with Andre The Giant in the near future. It would indeed be a battle of giants. Speaking of giants, someone recently informed me that there is a wrestler in South Africa who stands 7-foot-6.

Even though big men are always popular in wrestling the little men are just

as popular. The latest member of the midget male wrestlers is Coconut Willie.

This little guy has taken the wrestling world by storm. He's from Hawaii and when not wrestling he likes to sit down,

play his ukulele and sing a song or two. Like every other midget wrestler, he has his eyes set on the championship held by Lord Littlebrook.

Up in the northern part of Michigan, things are really going great for the International Championship Wrestling promotions based in Columbus, Ohio. The ICW has been giving the fans some exciting wrestling action with such stars as Flying Fred Curry, Dr. Jerry Graham and Jerry Jr., The Masked Crusader, Tiny Tim Hampton, Bobby Arnold, Crazy Bobby Fulton, Ricki Cortez, Luis Martinez, Wild Bull Curry, Don Slaton, Bad New Jackson, Lou Thesz, Mary Jane Mull, Marva Scott and others. The Wolverine State is really getting some hot mat action up to here and the promoters of ICW will soon be promoting in southern Michigan.

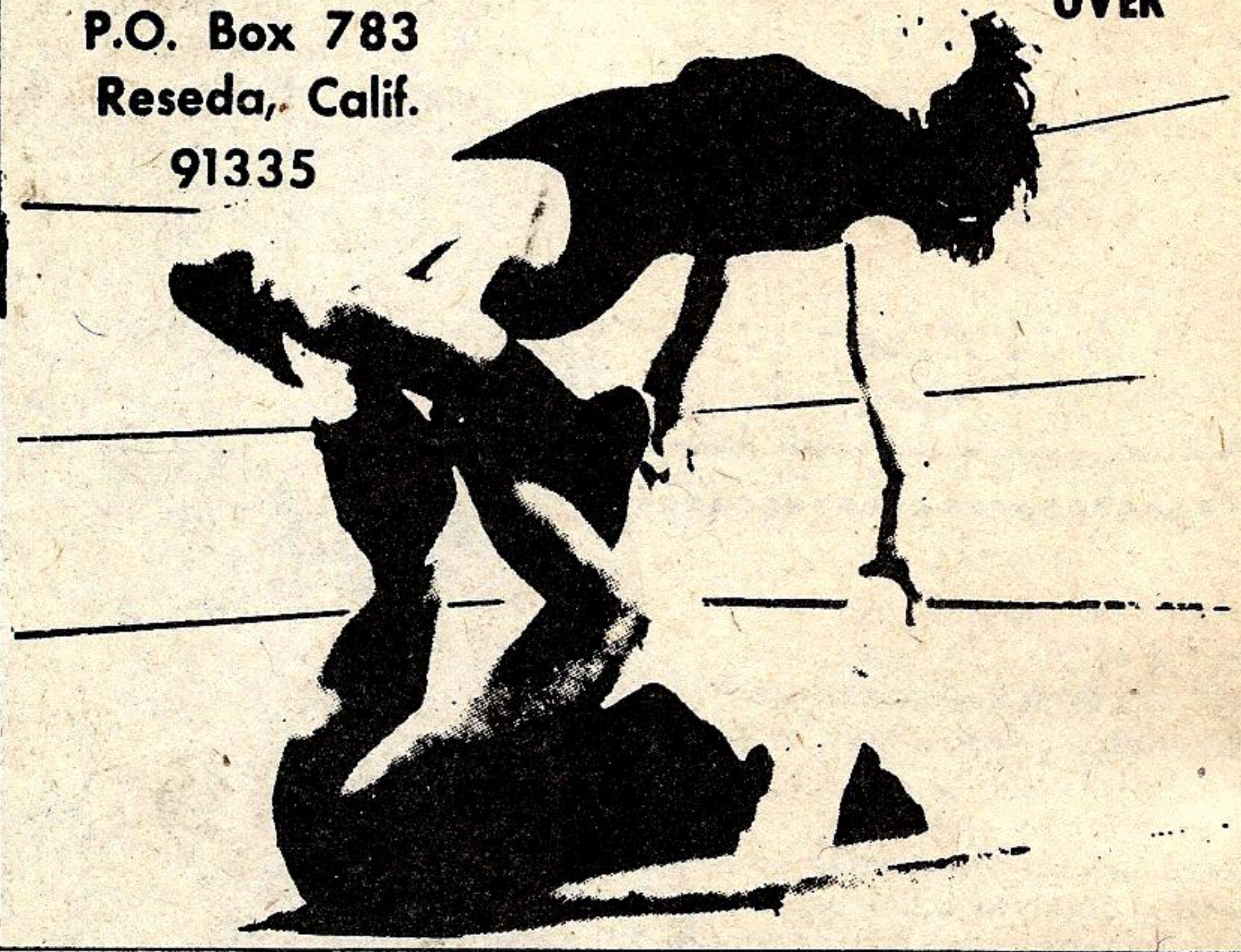
Ripper (King) Collins has returned to Hawaii after a long visit to the mainland. His aim is to regain the Hawaii State belt. Collins put himself in line for a championship match when he defeated Billy Francis at the Neil Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. Other wrestling talent seeing action in Hawaii at this writing are Larry Sharpe, Nick Bockwinkel, Steve Strong, Mr Fuji, Karl Von Steiger, Duke Savage and Tor Kamata. Promoter Ed Francis has been giving his fans some excellent cards under the sanction of both the NWA and AWA.

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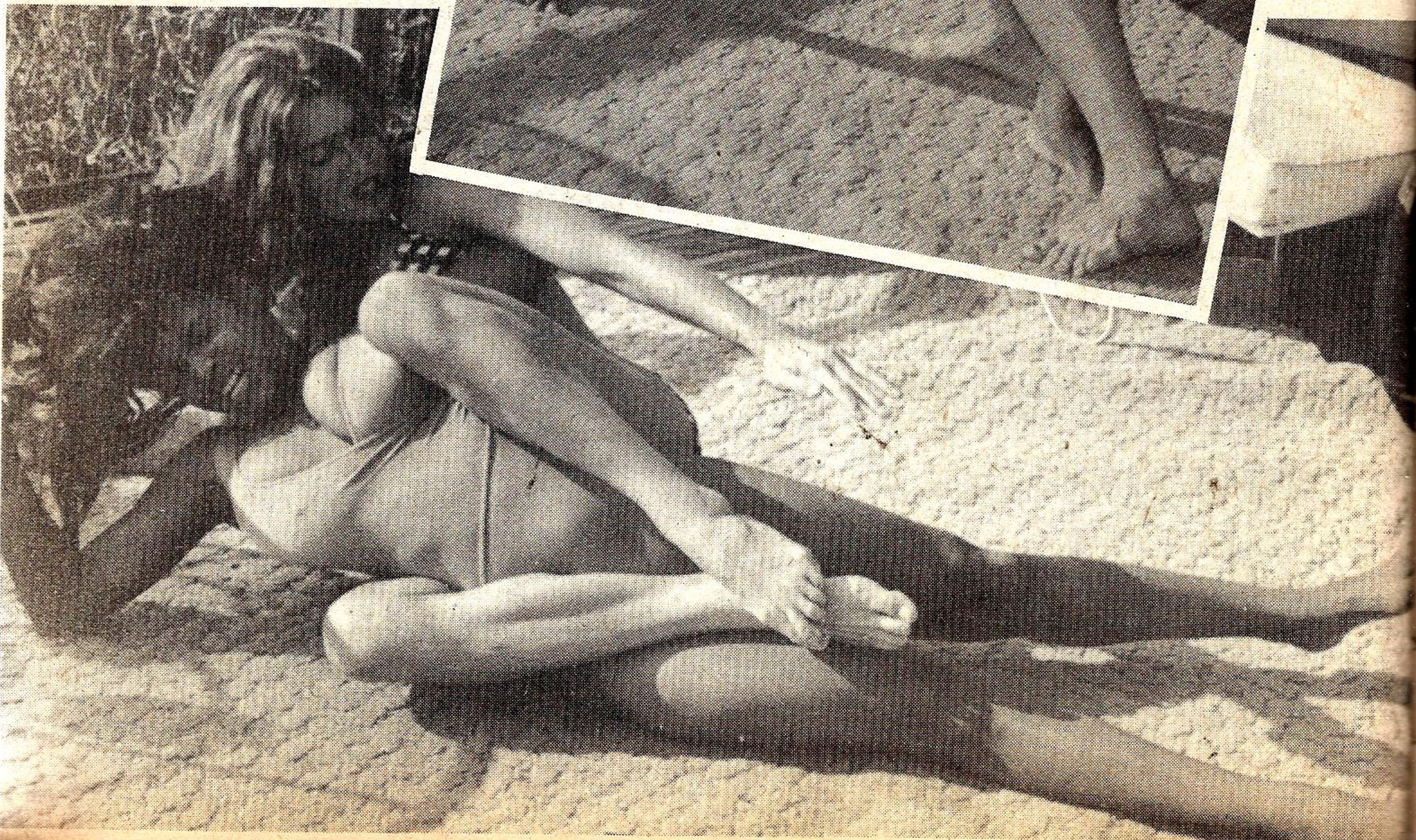
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apartment house wrestling

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Delores and Shirley wasted no time in getting down to action and during this test of strength, Delores tripped her opponent. ▶

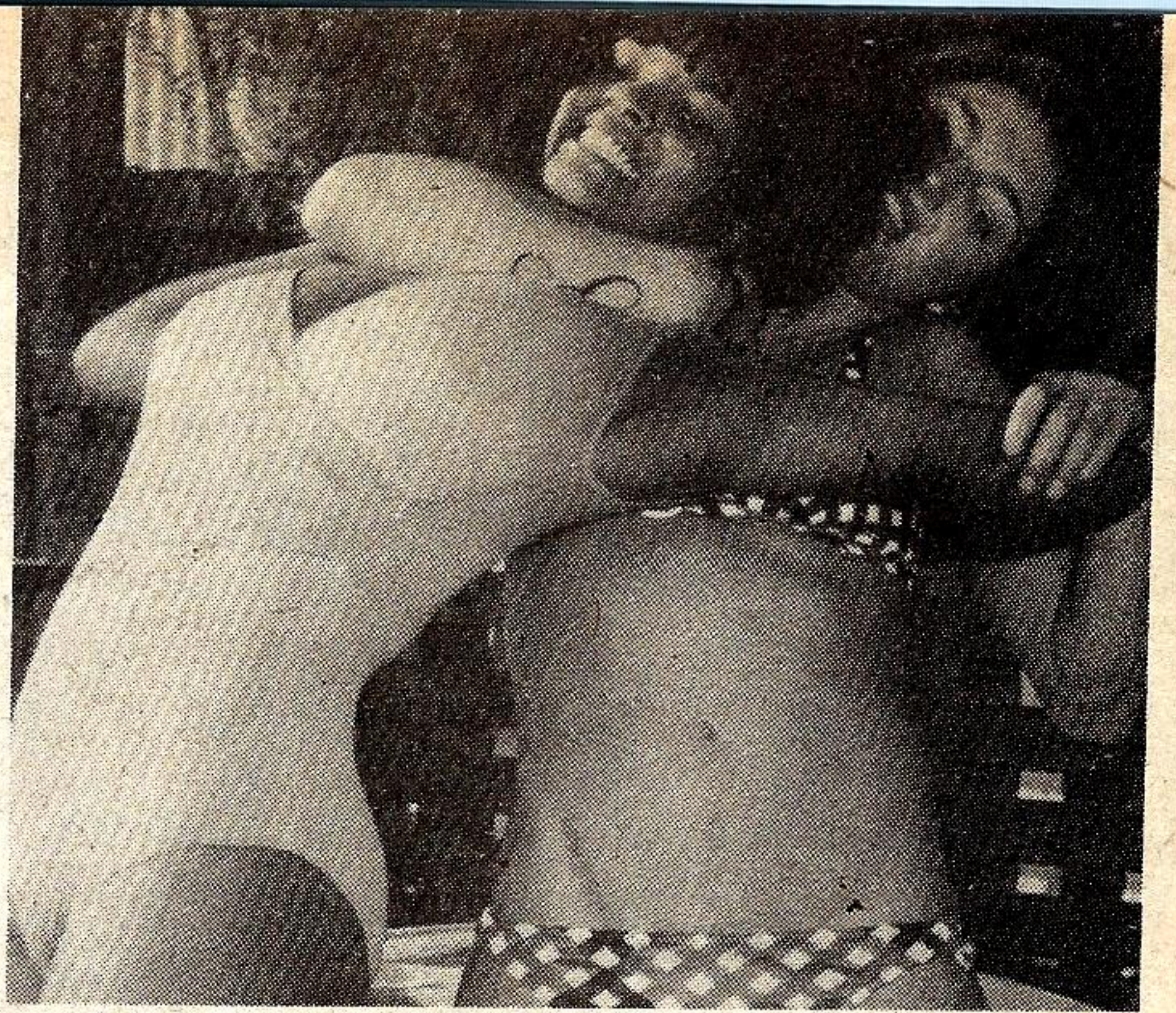
Delores was so busy dishing out punishment, she was caught off balance and soon found herself caught in a leg scissors. ▼



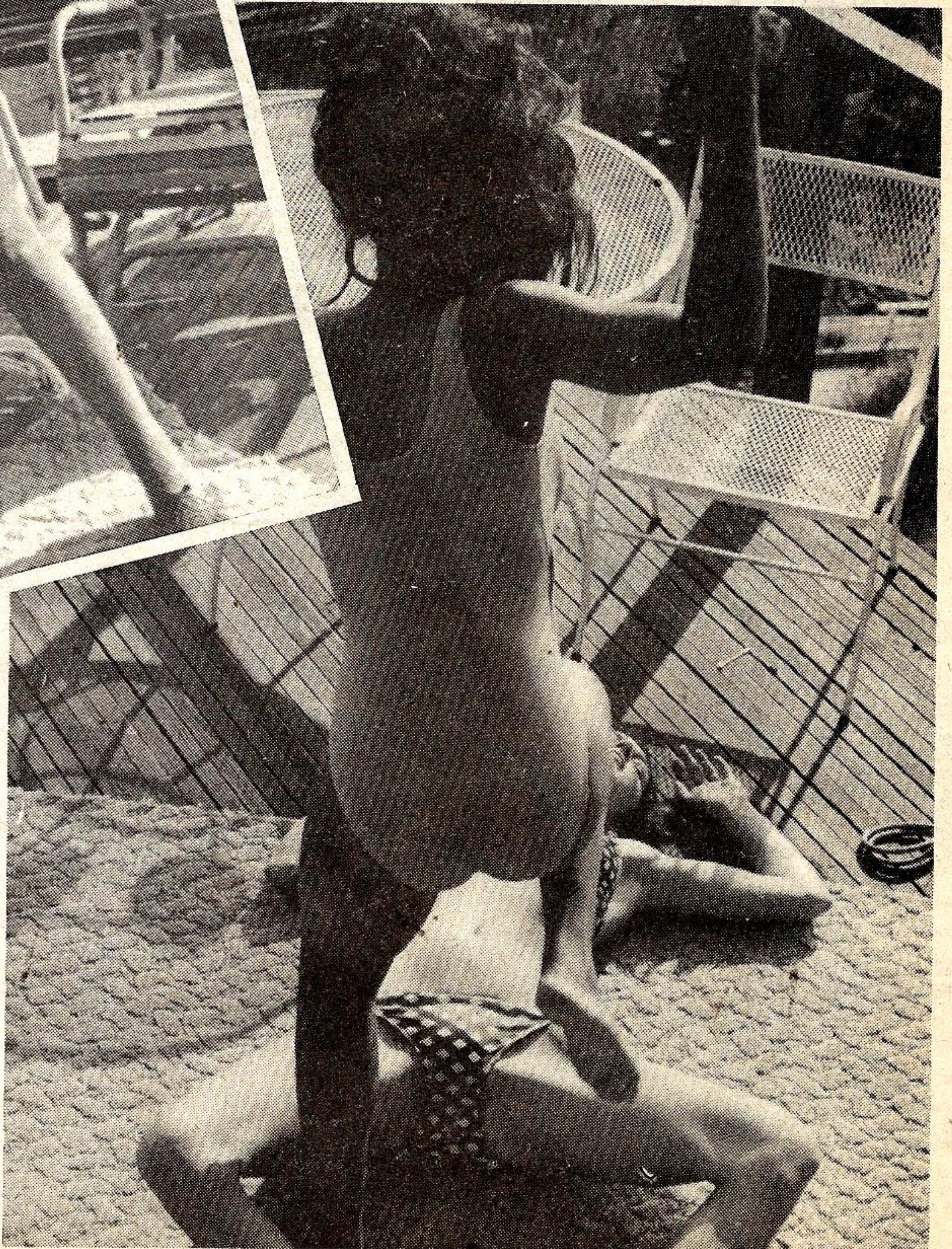


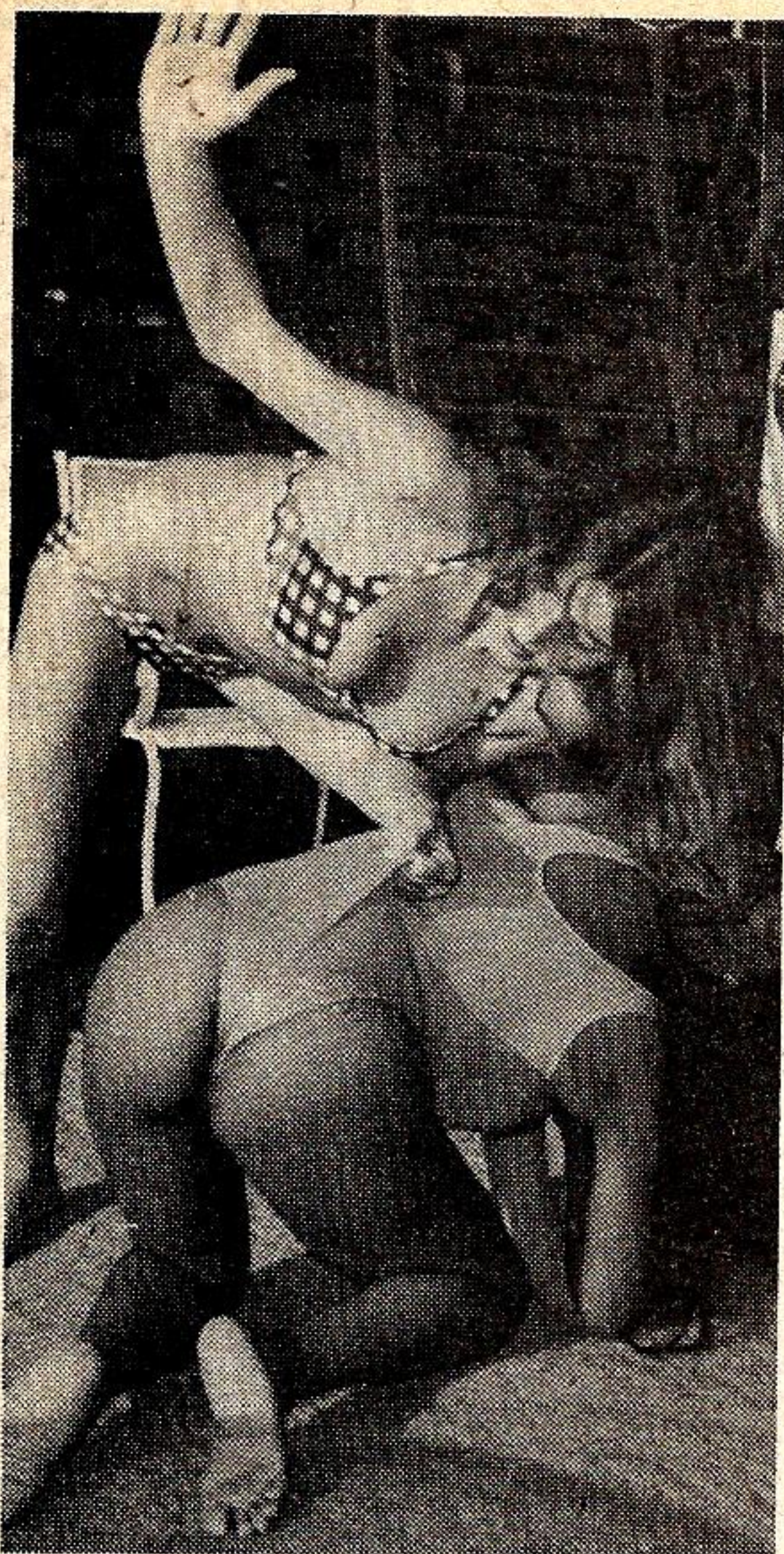
▲ Delores was the picture of confidence prior to her bout with Shirley as she flashed the victory sign.

You aren't supposed to kick a person ► when they are down, but anything goes in apartment house wrestling and Delores was out to make the most of this opportunity.

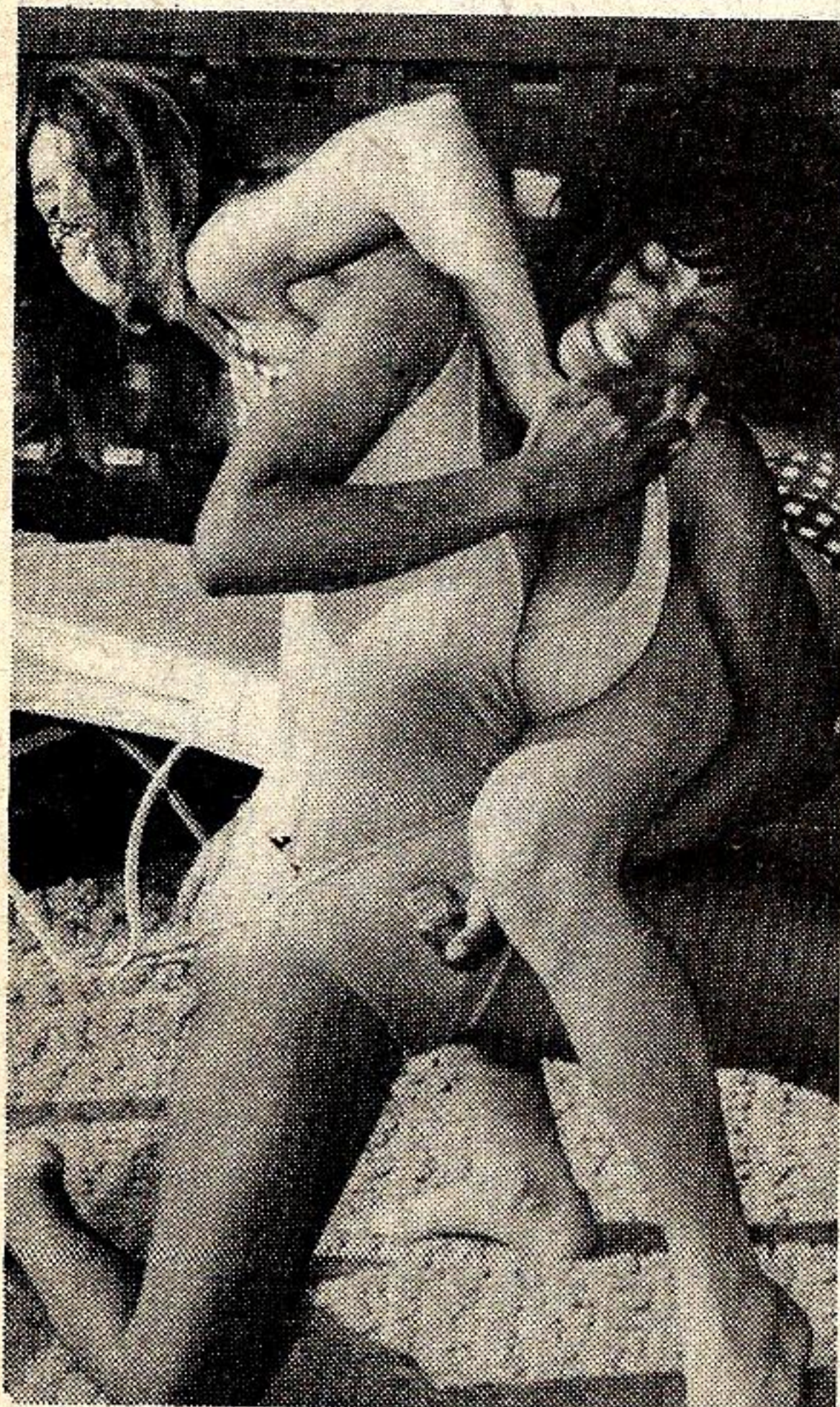


Delores is back on her feet but in dire straits as Shirley grabs her from behind and starts to apply a chokehold.





Delores fought with all her strength but finally succumbed to Shirley's choking and collapsed to the floor. Shirley then added insult to injury by spanking her beaten foe.



Although Delores eventually worked her way free and tried to get to her feet, Shirley was even quicker, grabbed her from behind and the struggle continued.

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DIXIE PINERO

KING OF NEW YORK

By LAWRENCE J. JAMES

Dixie Pinero irritates a lot of people but he couldn't care less!

According to Dixie his background was not particularly unique. Before going into wrestling, Pinero was a boxer for some six years, then from boxing Pinero went into wrestling and has attained the ultimate in professional wrestling in New York — the New York State Vega International Wrestling heavyweight championship.

In talking to Pinero I could not help but sense not only the conflict in our personalities, but also the conflict within his own personality. He thinks he is the greatest wrestler in the world. He made me feel like he was doing me a big favor by talking to me.

Pinero told me he would soon lose his patience if I keep asking him questions. He suggested I shut up and take some notes. After all, he was the New York champion and I was only a reporter for *Wrestling Revue*. Dixie said he did not much care about the fans but they should know the facts. "The fact is, I am a great wrestler."

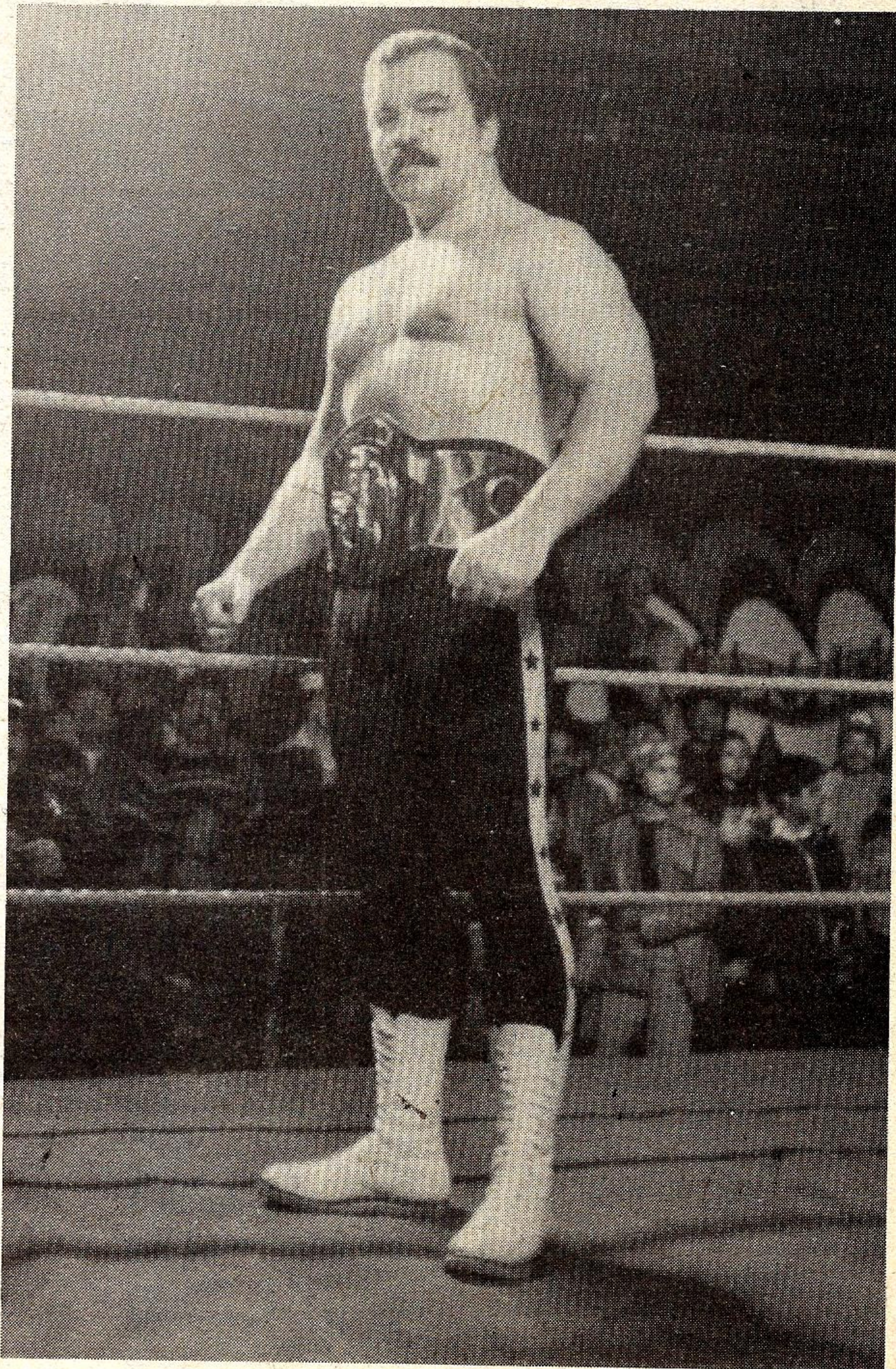
"The fact is the fans get their money's worth when they see me."

"The fact is I am very good looking and the women go crazy when they see me."

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"I had what it takes to make it big and I made it big! I'm the king of the Big Apple! This is where it's at, the action baby!

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Dixie Pinero poses proudly, wearing his New York State VIWP championship belt.

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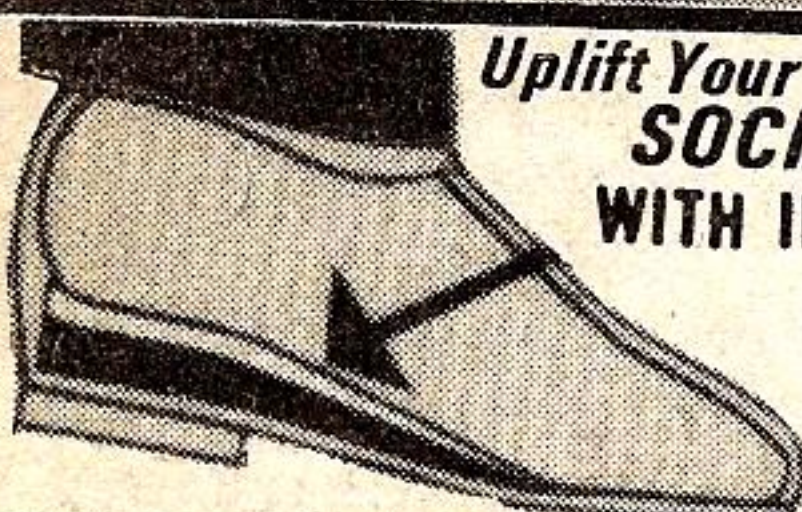
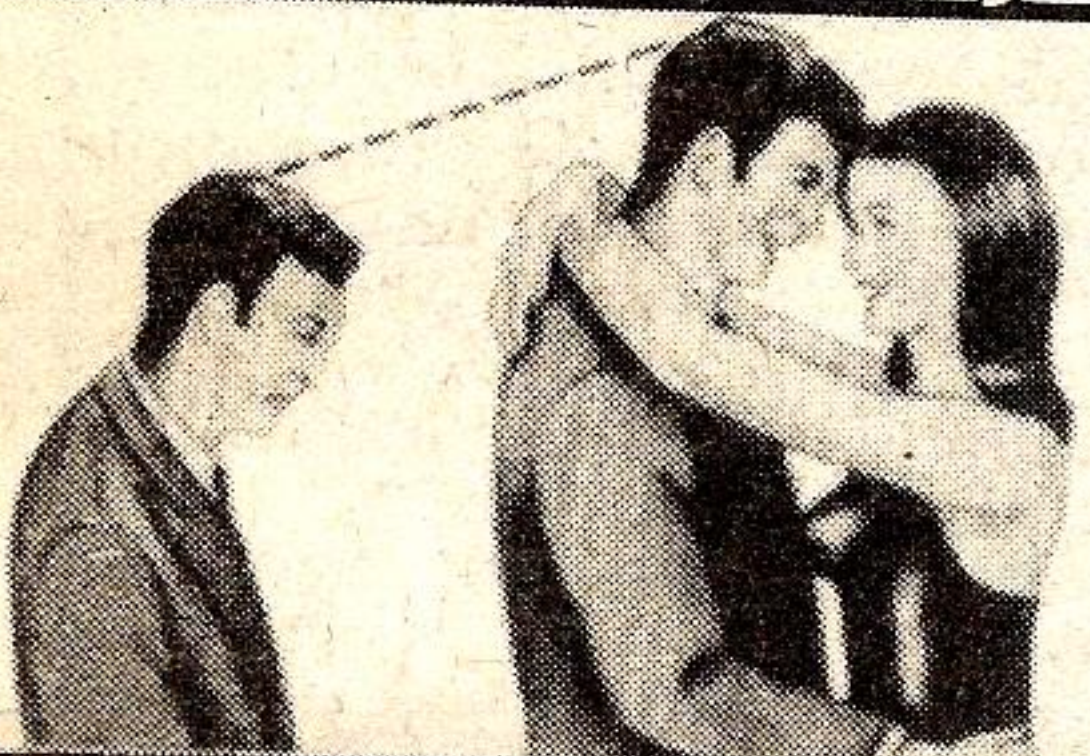
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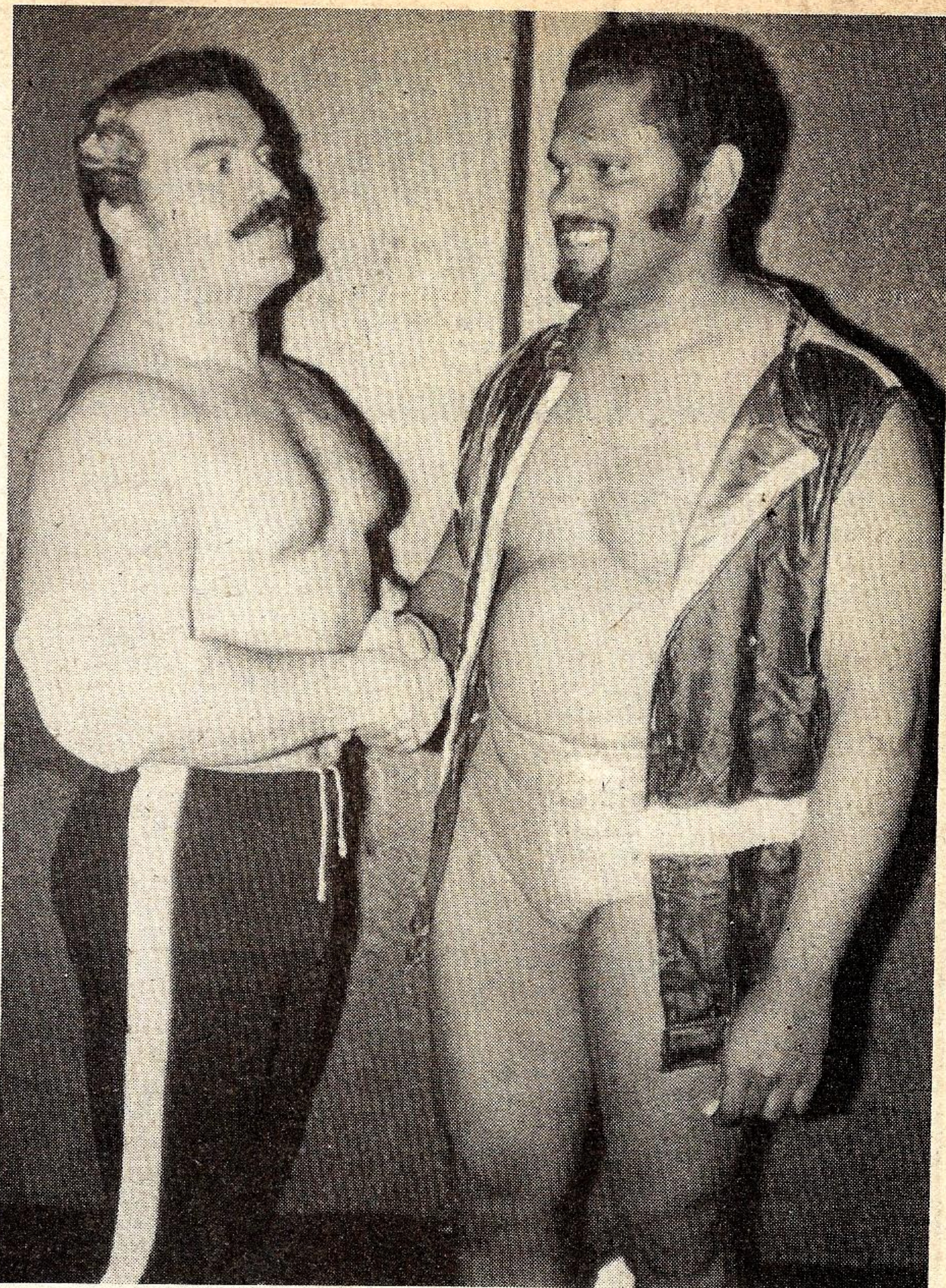
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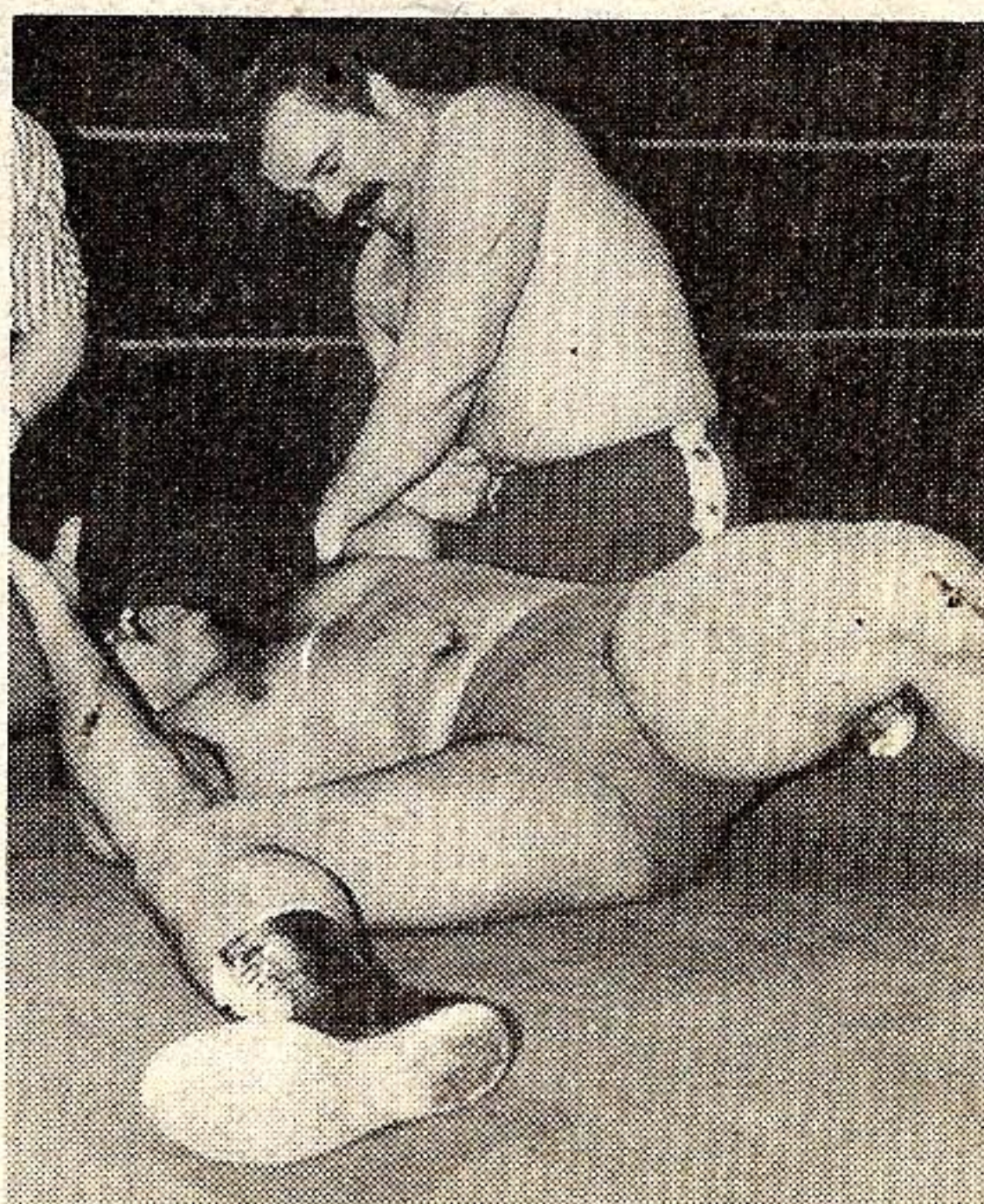
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Dixie Pinero shakes hands with fellow villain, Victor Rivera.

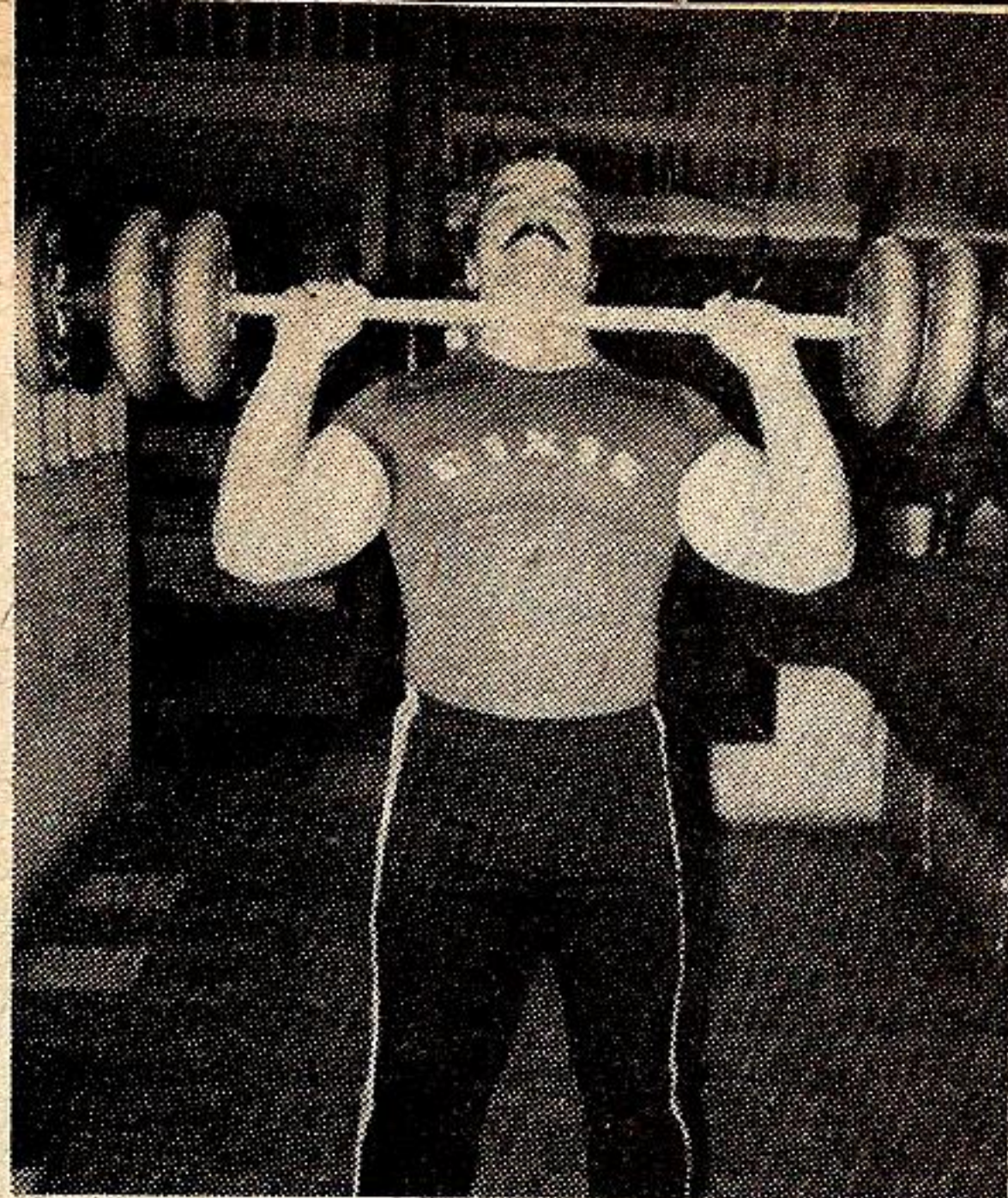


Here's Pinero in action, applying an armbar on Manuel Soto.

"You see I am the champ, champ of New York State. I don't have to prove myself to anyone. I'm number one, king of the hill.

"I've held many, many titles, for both single and tag-team wrestling. I plan on becoming a tag-team champ again very soon as I have been working out with someone and he will soon be ready to make his debut. I know in just a matter of months we'll be the champs. Before you ask me who it is, let me tell you it's none of your business.

"Now as far as my New York title is concerned, I plan to give every worthy wrestler a chance at the title. You see, I'm not afraid of anyone. But I'll also tell you I'll do anything to keep it, and I do mean anything!



Dixie Pinero believes in staying in top shape and does so by lifting weights regularly. "In my shape, there is no man alive who can take my title," boasts Pinero.

I've had the New York title for over two years and I plan on keeping it forever.

"That's right, Dixie Pinero and New York are one and the same!

"With that Pinero told me I had taken up enough of his time and that I should get lost.

Pinero likes to talk about himself and loves to say how great he is. The fact is, he is a very good wrestler! He is main-event material and puts his belt on the line at least once a week.

He has given Gene Crespo, the former New York State champ, a number of chances to regain his title but Crespo can't seem to put it all together against Dixie.

Pinero has also given the very popular Manuel Soto a number of title shots, but Soto, like Crespo, he has not been able to win the belt even though he has given Pinero some very tough bouts.

Pinero has sent many of his opponents to the hospital one such man was Victor Cancel. Cancel had to spend some two months in hospital due to a number of broken bones received in a match with Dixie.

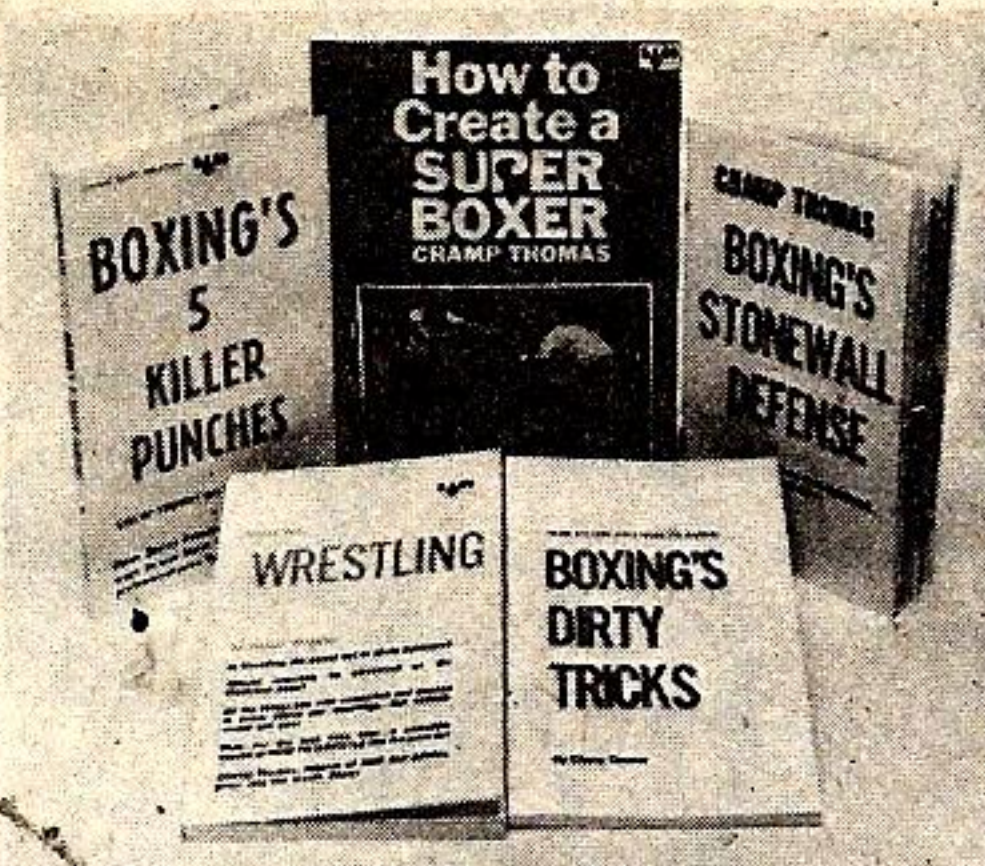
Pinero has had many feuds and one of the worst has been with El Terror Del Ring. These bouts have been bloodbaths, with both men needing a doctor after every match.

Pinero is in very good shape and a master of many holds. He likes to use the backbreaker and has gained many a victory with it.

It's hard to like a man like Pinero as he is rule breaker but it does look like he will be around for a long time!

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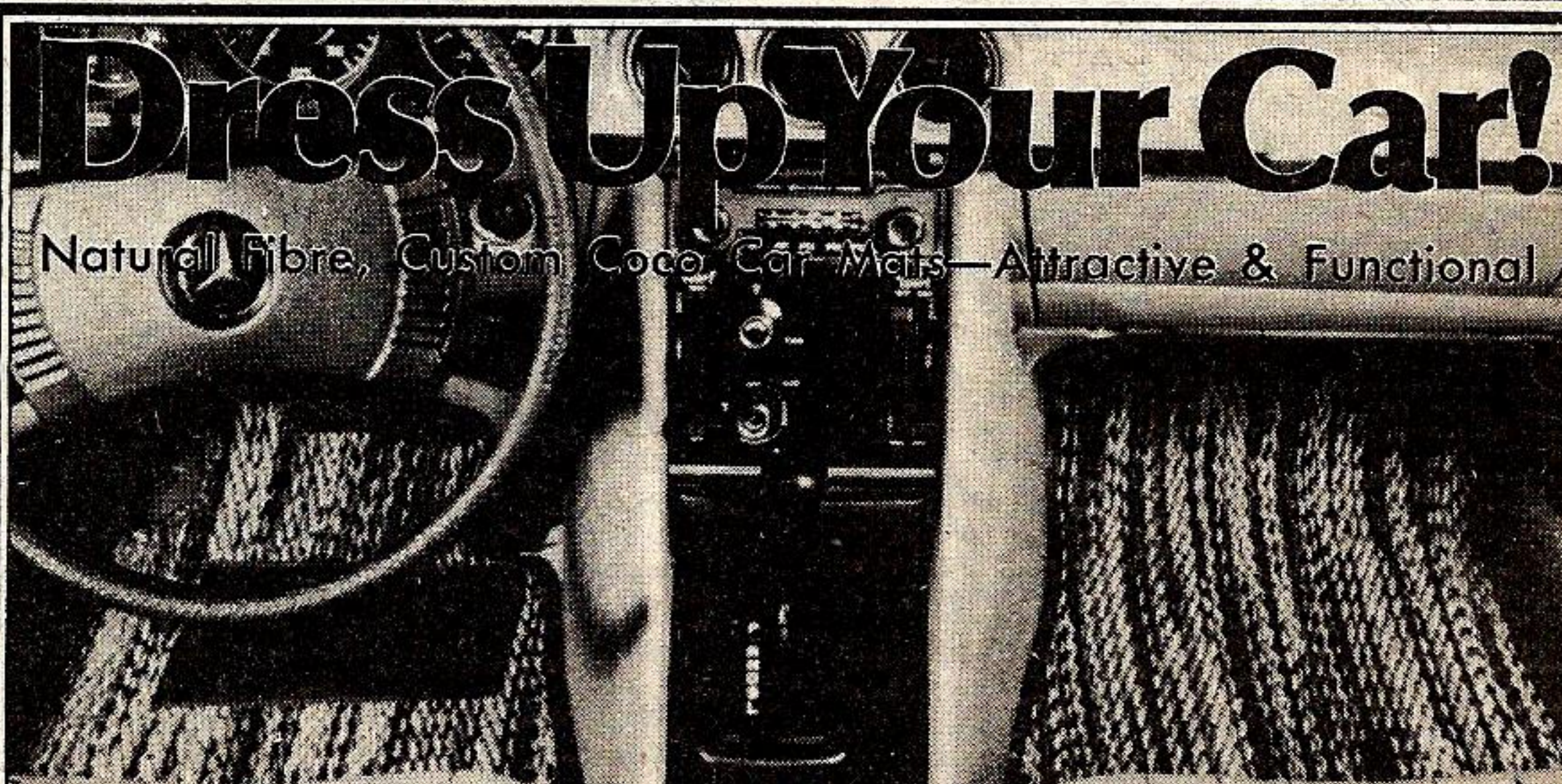
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HISTORY OF THE WWWF

PART III

By **SANDY KREBS**

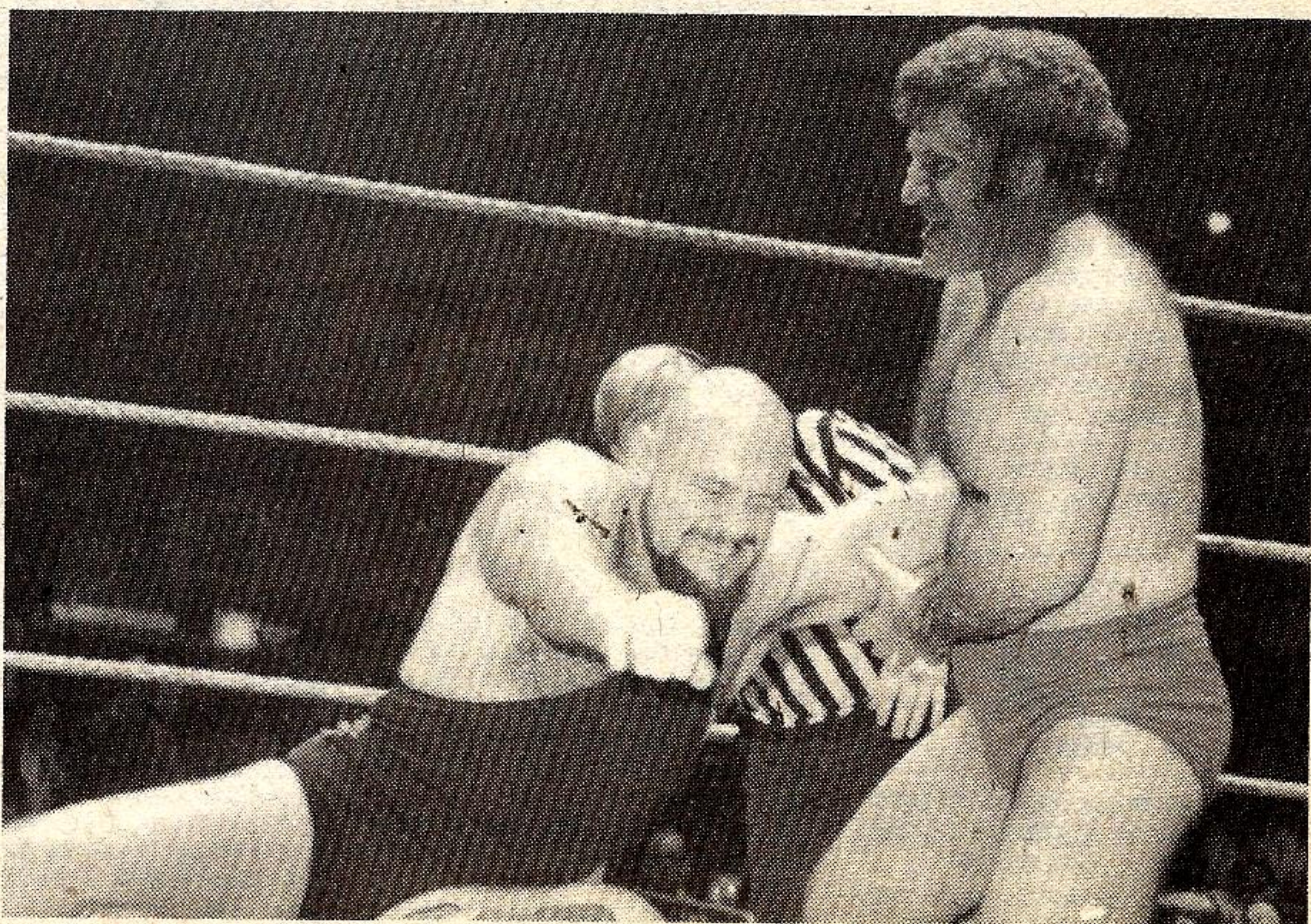
In one of Madison Square Garden's dressing rooms, Lou Albano and Ivan Koloff were having a wild celebration. Albano had just achieved a goal which had eluded him throughout his wrestling career — his protege, Koloff had just beaten Bruno Sammartino to win the World Wide Wrestling Federation heavy-weight title. As the Dom Perignon flowed, Albano rejoiced in the fact that Sammartino was finished as champion and could not try to regain his title as there was a no rematch clause in the contract.

In the other dressing room, Pedro Morales, the North American heavy-weight champion, was consoling his good friend Bruno Sammartino. Morales had just returned to the WWWF after a seven-year absence and had made his first title defense just minutes after Koloff had beaten Sammartino. After trouncing the

Wolfman, Morales had challenged Koloff to meet him, for the title, in Madison Square Garden the next month. Koloff and Albano, having no fear of Morales, agreed to the match.

Now, Morales was in the dressing room telling the disconsolate Sammartino not to worry, the title will be returned to an honorable man and to the people shortly. Bruno trusted Pedro, he had watched Morales grow from a skinny, young, inexperienced wrestler into a husky 240-pound champion. He knew that Morales could deliver on any promise that he made.

As for Bruno, he knew why the title was lost this night. He had injured his shoulder in Pittsburgh the previous Friday evening against George Steele. He could have cancelled his match with Koloff, but refused to let his loyal fans down. His



The rivalry between Ivan Koloff (left) and Bruno Sammartino goes back a long way.

courage and loyalty had cost him the title, but he knew someday there would be another match with Koloff and then the better man would win.

The following month, over 22,000 wrestling fans, mostly Spanish-speaking and rooting for Morales, came to see history made. They were not disappointed as Pedro Morales tore into Koloff from the opening bell, hungrily.

Yes, there were occasions during the match when it seemed Koloff would prevail, but the outcome was hardly in doubt. Morales wanted this one for Bruno and for his people. The end came following a Morales flying leap off the top rope and a cradle pin. Both men's shoulders were pinned to the mat during the three count, but Morales managed to raise a shoulder off the mat at the count of two while Koloff could not do so.

The crowd went wild, Morales ran around the ring waving a Puerto Rican flag someone had thrown into the ring. Bruno Sammartino came into the ring to strap his championship belt around Pedro's waist and to congratulate him. Sammartino was going into semi-retirement after this night and couldn't have been happier to see the title in such worthy hands.

Ivan Koloff became the man to hold the WWWF title for the shortest period of time — three weeks to the day.

Morales was following in a legend's footsteps. It was going to be hard to prove to all wrestling fans that he was going to be a great champion. The majority of fans were in his corner, but there were many fans who demanded that Bruno receive a match with Pedro, not because he was the number one contender, but because he had been such a great champion.

Bruno answered these fans from his home in Pittsburgh, "I don't want the title back. Pedro Morales is my friend, I don't want to wrestle him, I want to stay home with my family, I'm tired of being on the road six days a week."

The wrestling fans of New York City, Philadelphia and Boston idolized Pedro, but the wrestling fans in Pittsburgh, Bruno's home town, didn't like Morales. After winning the title in February, Morales only defended his title once in Pittsburgh, that match was against Luke Graham, in June. Morales was booed by many in the crowd as he entered the

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Civic Arena ring and again as he left after the 10 minute title defense. These fans wanted to see a Pedro-Bruno match and nothing else and they showed their contempt for the man they felt was ducking his number one challenger.

So, while Pedro Morales continued to defend his title against men such as Black Jack Mulligan, George Steele, Tarzan Tyler, Jim Valiant, Luke Graham and Bulldog Brower in New York, Boston and Philadelphia, the WWF kept Morales away from the Pittsburgh area where Bruno Sammartino was headlining.

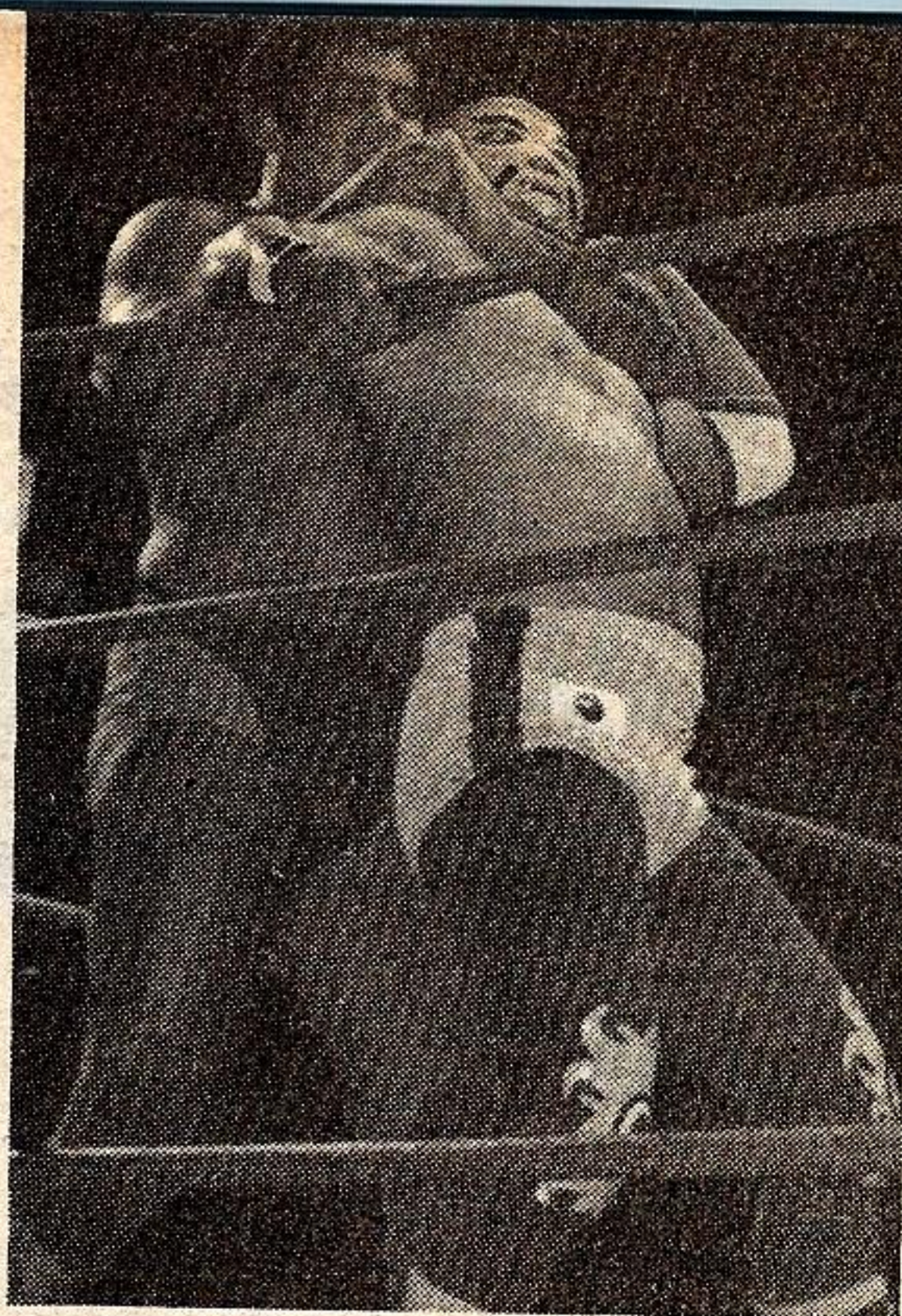
Ace Freeman, the Pittsburgh promoter, after demanding Pedro Morales (and not getting him) for the Civic Arena, dropped out of the WWF and became an independent promoter with Bruno as his top star.

Morales and his fans were not concerned about this action. But an event which occurred in December, 1971, disturbed and angered Morales tremendously. Vince McMahon, the top promoter in the WWF, attended the annual National Wrestling Alliance meeting in St. Louis. At these meetings an agreement was reached in which McMahon would be allowed to rejoin the NWA as long as he dropped recognition of Pedro Morales as world champion. McMahon agreed to the request because, as a member of the world's largest wrestling organization, it would be easier to obtain the top wrestling talent for his fans.

Pedro Morales was not happy to learn that he no longer was a world champion, but the WWF heavy-weight champion. "This action is like a slap in my face, it is something I will never forget," said the bitter Pedro.

Wrestling fans didn't care. In their eyes, Morales was still the world champion and would be until he lost the title in the ring. Morales continued to defend the WWF championship against such top stars as Fred Blassie, Ernie Ladd, Moon Dog Mayne and Professor Tanaka.

Pedro even formed a tag team with his friend Bruno Sammartino, who was slowly beginning to get more involved with wrestling. The Sammartino-Morales duo quickly became the top contenders for the tag-team championship held by Professor Tanaka and Mr. Fuji and earned a televised shot at the championship. Pedro and Bruno were on their way to winning the tag-



Pedro Morales — shown here with a chinlock on Tokyo Joe — ended Ivan Koloff's reign as WWF champion after just three weeks.

team titles when the dastardly Japs threw salt in their eyes, blinding them. As they groped around the ring, unable to see, Pedro and Bruno lashed out at what they thought were the Japs, Pedro hit Bruno and Bruno returned the punch each other as the fans watched, horrified. Finally, other wrestlers rushed into the ring to break up the battle between the two superstars and save their friendship. But it was too late, the friendship was shattered.

"I want Morales," said Bruno, "I want to defeat him. He could see who he was hitting. He hit me on purpose. I know his eyes were clear. He's jealous of me. Now he can prove himself, I want my title back."

Pedro reluctantly agreed to the match. "I don't want to wrestle Bruno. He is still my friend. I love him like a brother, but if he wants to wrestle me, then I will not back down. We must wrestle."

The match all wrestling fans had demanded for over a year was about to occur. The match was scheduled for late October at New York's Shea Stadium. A crowd of 22,508 wrestling fans braved the cold, windy and rainy weather to see the match labelled 'The Match of the Century'. For the first time in his wrestling career, Bruno Sammartino was booed as he entered a New York City ring, by Morales' Spanish fans. Morales, on the other hand, was loudly cheered.

The bell sounded, Bruno and Pedro warily circled each other.

Bruno used a short-arm scissors to gain the upper hand, then threw Morales into the ropes, flipping him and trying for a quick pin. Pedro threw Bruno off just before the count of three.

From then on, the match was fairly even. Pedro and Bruno had the same strategy, to work on and weaken the others' arm.

At the 40-minute mark, chaos reigned. George (The Animal) Steele came on the Shea Stadium field in an attempt to reach the ring and attack Sammartino. If Steele had managed to reach the ring, the match would have ended in a disqualification, with Bruno as the winner, but the special police intercepted Steele and led him back to the dressing room.

Bruno and Pedro continued to struggle, but neither could gain the upper hand. At 11 p.m. the bell rang signalling curfew. The match was



Stan Stasiak — shown here about to punch S.D. Jones — was WWF titleholder for a mere 10 days.

called a draw and Bruno and Pedro embraced each other. The fans gave both wrestlers a standing ovation for the scientific exhibition they had just witnessed. After this match Bruno and Pedro buried the hatchet and became friends again.

Meanwhile, in an important event for wrestling in general, promoter Vince McMahon signed American Wrestling Association champion Verne Gagne to defend his title in New York City. This event marked the first time another federation's title was defended in New York as Gagne defeated Buddy Wolfe with a sleeper hold to retain his title. The fans greeted Gagne warmly and he returned a few months later and defeated Eddie Graham to keep his title.

In the WWF, fans began to seriously think of a wrestling 'World Series' pitting the three champions against each other. Speculation was fueled even more as Morales went on

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the road to defend his WWWF title in Los Angeles (NWA territory), Denver, Colorado (AWA territory) and Memphis, Tenn., (NWA). In his home territory, Pedro was kept active by the Grand Wizard and Lou Albano who imported such men as Don Leo Jonathan, George Steele, The Black Jacks and Ray Stevens in hopes of defeating Morales. All of them failed.

But, Morales' time was running out. All of the travelling and punishment was beginning to take its toll. There was no rest for Pedro and no time to let injuries heal.

In November, 1973, Pedro Morales made what was to be his last appearance as champion in Madison Square Garden against Larry (The Axe) Hennig. Hennig cut Morales' head open and the match was stopped due to excessive bleeding by Morales. There was to be a rematch with the title at stake in December. The rematch would occur, but there would be no title to defend.

Ten days before the wrestling's biggest upsets ever, in Philadelphia Pa. The heart punch did the trick for Stasiak.

The Grand Wizard, Stasiak's manager, was ecstatic. "Stan has proven he is the greatest wrestler in the world. We were always robbed against Morales before, (Stasiak had lost at least 10 matches to Pedro in the past). Now the truth has finally come forth and Stan 'The Man' will stay on top for a long, long time".

Unfortunately for Stasiak, his first title defense would be against Bruno Sammartino on the same Madison Square Garden card in which Morales was to have defended his title against Hennig. Stasiak's first title defense was also his last as Bruno easily defeated him to become the first man ever to regain the WWWF heavyweight championship. Stasiak's 10 days reign as champion

It probably would have been impossible for any man to defend the title as well as the young Bruno Sammartino did, but the older Sammartino would certainly try. With the title change, the home area of Bruno Sammartino, Pittsburgh, returned to the WWWF after a twoyear absence. After defeating Hennig in the rematch, Morales left the WWWF.

Bruno was in the finest shape of his career. He was ready for all challen-

gers. The wrestlers were stronger, larger and younger than ever and Bruno knew he needed to be in top shape to keep the title. He immediately proved he had not lost his touch by defeating Don Leo Jonathan in his first defense of the title.

The Grand Wizard and Lou Albano were joined as managers by the newly retired Fred Blassie, who wanted to make a good impression with his first protegee, Nikolai Volkoff. After several gruelling matches, Bruno defeated Volkoff.

Bruno also defended his title in the WWA territory of Indiana against Jimmy Valiant and the man who had defeated him to win the title. Ivan Koloff, thus gaining sweet revenge, replaced Ivan Koloff's three-week reign as the shortest championship reign ever.

Bruno said after the match, "I wanted to win this match badly for my loyal fans. I only hope I will be able to defend this title as well as I did in the past.

But things were heating up in other areas too. In January, 1975, a new wrestling promotion made its debut. It was the International Wrestling Alliance run by Eddie Einhorn of TVS television. Einhorn had big plans for the IWA which was to be continental wrestling Alliance. He already had such cities as New York, Los Angeles, Cleveland and Miami plus North Carolina and Virginia and wanted more. Einhorn acquired top wrestlers for the IWA, such men as IWA champion Mil Mascaras, North American champion Bulldog Brower, Ivan Koloff, Johnny Powers, Dino Bravo, The Love Brothers and Tex McKenzie. Not only was the IWA a threat to the WWWF in New York, but also a threat to any other wrestling promoter. As the IWA got stronger, it would grow larger. There was no telling how strong the IWA could be if it could win the promotional battle in New York. Many fans already favored the IWA over the WWWF TV shows.

WWWF promoter Vince McMahon was not going to sit idly by and wait for the IWA to fold. He brought in top wrestling stars such as Superstar Billy Graham, Buggy Bruno continued his winning streak, defeating such men as Killer Kowalski, Professor Tanaka, John Tolos, Strong Kobayashi and Bobby Duncum.

One man Bruno did not want to wrestle was his old friend, Spiros Arion. But Arion had attacked friend and tag-team partner Chief Jay Strongbow during a tag-team match; signed Fred Blassie as his manager and was now an extremely hated man.

"Sammartino you are a coward," Arion screamed. "You used me for years, you made believe you were my friend because you were afraid I would beat you for the strap. Now Freddie Blassie has shown me the truth. The truth is out in the open. You will be beaten by me, Sammartino, and your career will be ended."

The Arion-Sammartino matches attracted the three largest crowds ever to attend wrestling matches in Madison Square Garden, crowds so large that a closed circuit TV screen was used in the Felt Forum to accomodate part of the overflow crowd. The third match was the end for Arion as Bruno got it together to beat Spiros and end his title threat.

McGraw, Ivan Putski, Bobo Brazil, and The Black Jacks. He also had a trick up his sleeve. The WWF had an exclusive contract with any arena where the WWF ran shows. This meant no other promotion could promote in that building.

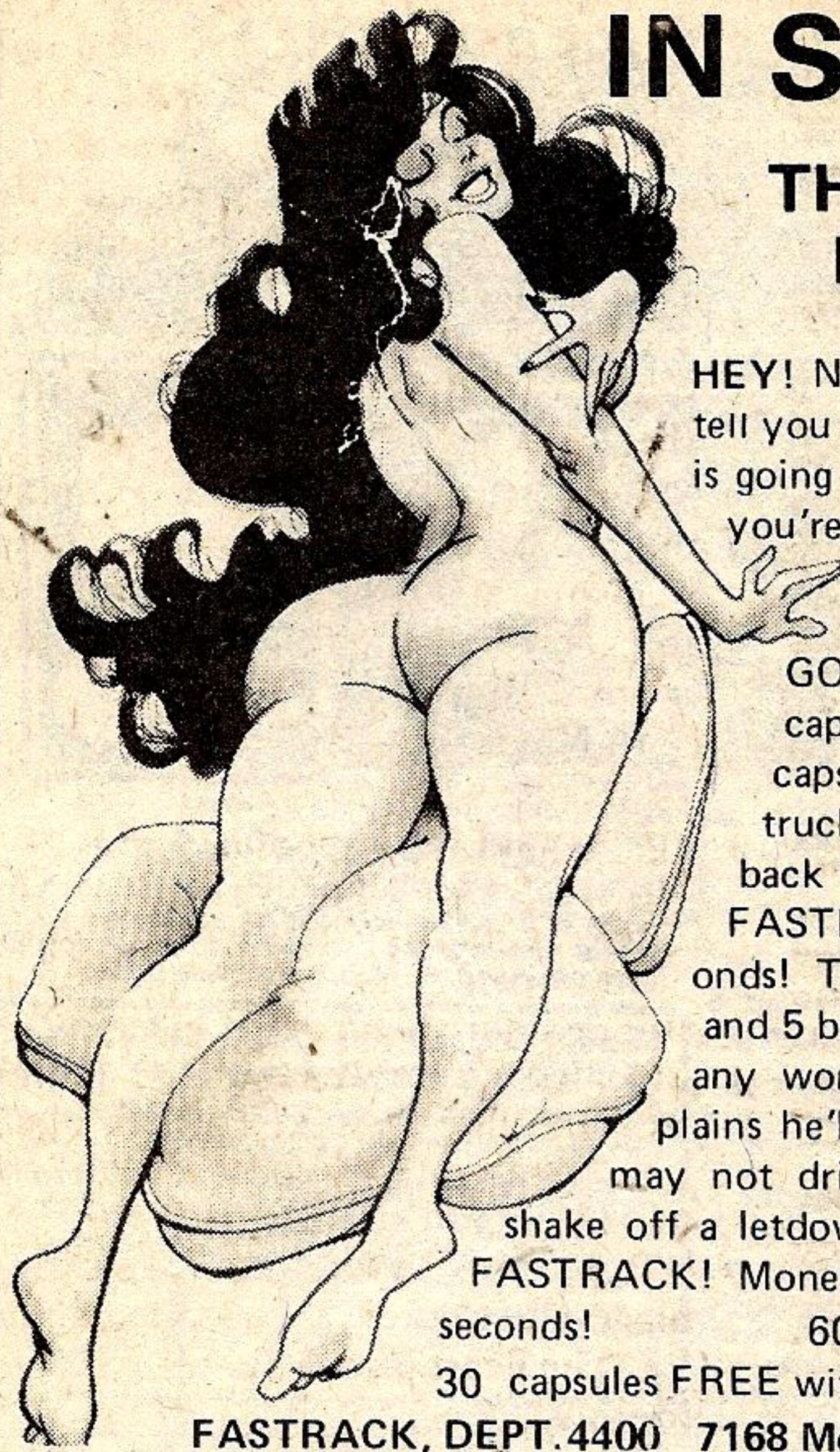
The IWA could not promote in Madison Square Garden, so Einhorn decided to promote in Roosevelt Stadium in New Jersey for the summer months. A total of 17,000 fans turned out for the two shows there, a respectable sum for such a new promotion. But, Roosevelt Stadium is an outdoor arena and with the end of summer, the IWA had to look for another place to promote. Einhorn settled on the Beacon Theater in Manhattan, a concert and movie theater seating 3,000, but two shows failed to draw.

In the meantime, McMahon convinced two top IWA stars, Ernie Ladd and Ivan Koloff to jump to the WWF. This was the last straw for the IWA, it left the New York City area, was sold to an independent promoter in North Carolina and the wrestling world breathed a sigh of relief. Thanks to Vince McMahon, a major promotional war across the country was averted.

During the promotional war, Fred Blassie was hospitalized with an eye injury. Blassie claimed Bruno Sammartino, Andre The Giant, Gorilla

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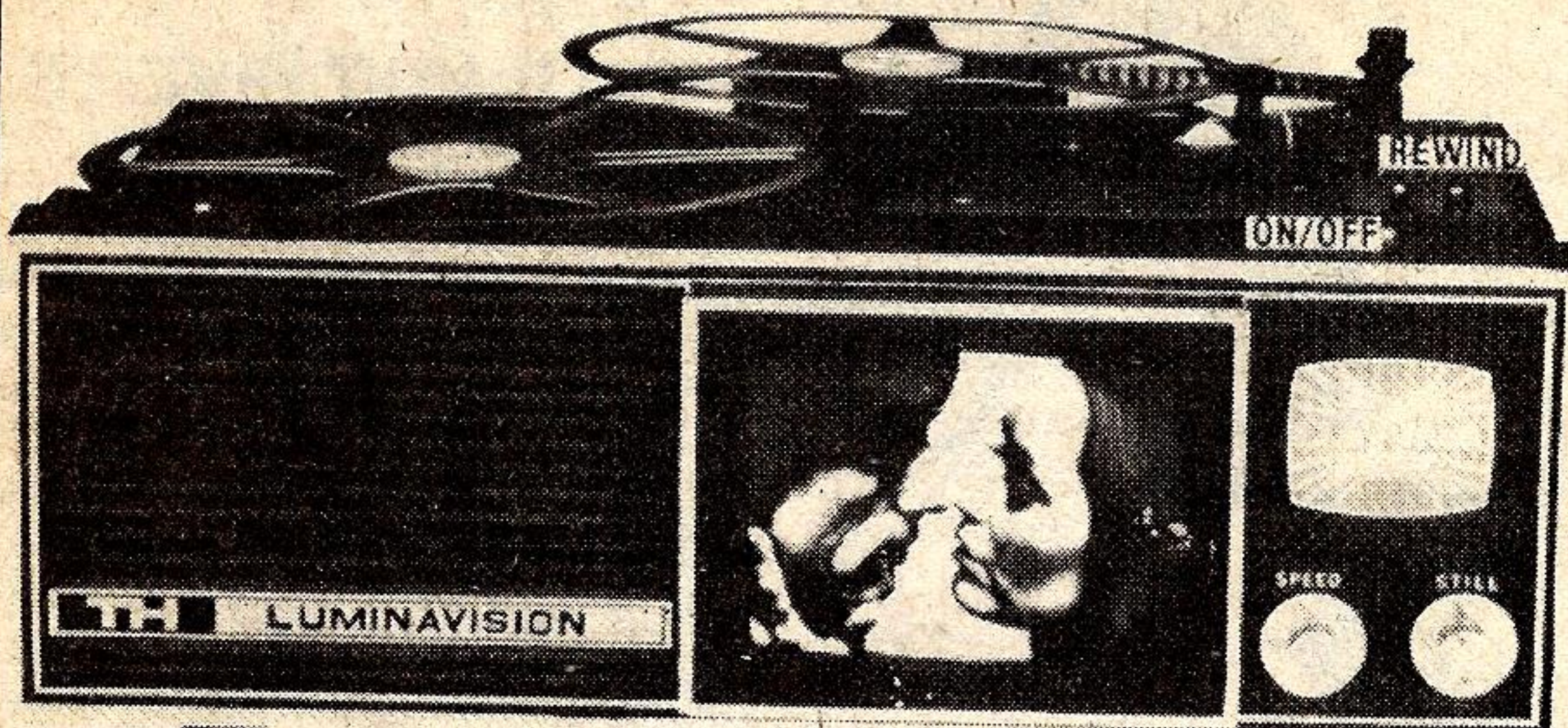
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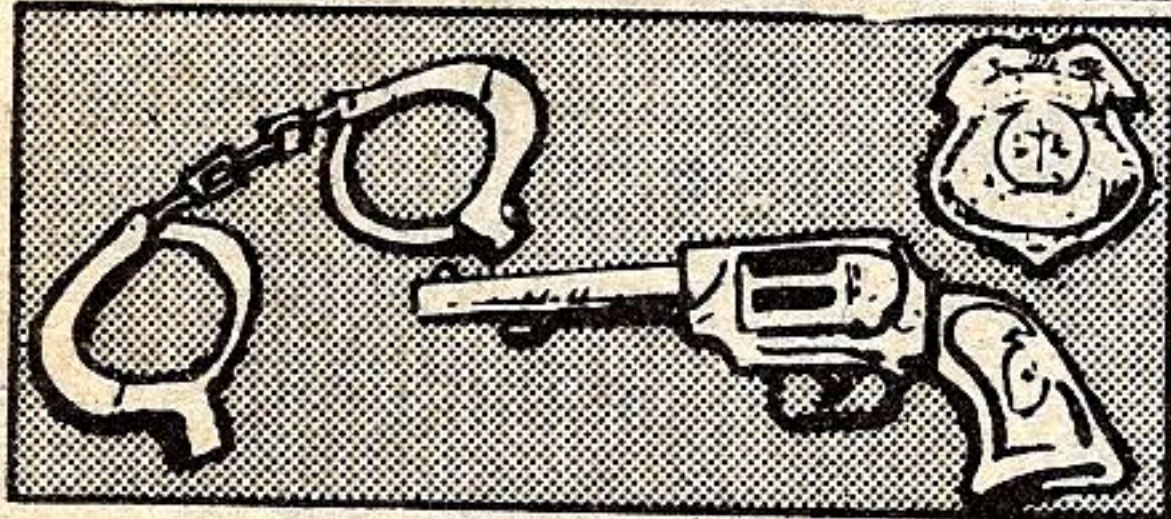
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Monsoon, Jay Strongbow and Ivan Puski had attacked him in an arena parking lot one night after the matches. He lost a lot of the vision in the eye and vowed to gain his revenge. As soon as he was well, Blassie began to scour the country looking for the man who would ruin Sammartino and the others.

Meanwhile, Bruno was busy defending his title against the newcomers to the WWF, Graham, Ladd and Koloff. None could beat Bruno. Blassie's search uncovered two men, Skandor Akbar and Louis Cyr, but they were failures.

Blassie returned to scouting and found the man he wanted in big Stan Hansen from Texas. Blassie called Hansen his 'Bounty Hunter'. With his neck punishing 'lariat' hold, Hansen moved quickly up the wrestling ladder and earned a title shot on April 26, 1976, against Sammartino in Madison Square Garden.

In this match Blassie got some revenge as Hansen broke Sammartino's neck with the 'lariat'. The match was stopped because of a cut suffered by Bruno and few fans were even aware that Bruno's neck had been broken until they read the newspapers the following morning. Bruno had suffered fractures of the cervical vertebrae of the neck. The third and fourth vertebrae were crushed, the sixth cracked and the seventh damaged.

Sammartino was admitted to a hospital in New York then moved to a hospital in Pittsburgh. Bruno's strong neck saved him from paralysis, but it was doubtful he would ever wrestle again. Sammartino promised his fans he would return to the ring and repay Hansen for what he had done.

Meanwhile, Hansen got revenge for Blassie as he trounced Monsoon, Strongbow and Putski. It was then announced that Sammartino was sufficiently healed and would be able to wrestle again. Of course he only wanted one man.

On June 25, 1976, in Shea Stadium — less than two months after his injury — Bruno Sammartino got his revenge. With 34,000 fans on hand and thousands more watching on closed circuit TV throughout the east, Bruno acted like a madman as he battered Hansen from pillar to post. Hansen began to run from

Bruno, and after 10:31 fled from the ring, a bloody mess and was counted out.

Sammartino wasn't satisfied with the victory and asked for and received a cage match against Hansen in which he proved Hansen was no match for him.

Hansen's friend, Bruiser Brody was Bruno's next victim, then both of the Executioners, the tag-team champions.

A man named Ken Patera came to the East Coast to wrestle. A former Olympic weightlifter and a villainous brawler, Patera's claim to fame was his famous 'Swinging Neck Breaker' hold. Patera vowed to cripple Sammartino for life by rebreaking his neck with this hold.

In recent months it had become obvious that Bruno was not the same wrestler he had been before the injury. He was having trouble with men he should have beaten easily. Many wrestling fans doubted Bruno could hold up against Patera. Bruno fought two matches with Patera which proved the fans wrong; however, he had not beaten Patera either and would not beat Ken Patera as the champion.

Superstar Billy Graham had returned to the WWF and challenged Sammartino to a title match at Baltimore's Civic Center. A near capacity crowd filled the arena to see Graham against Sammartino.

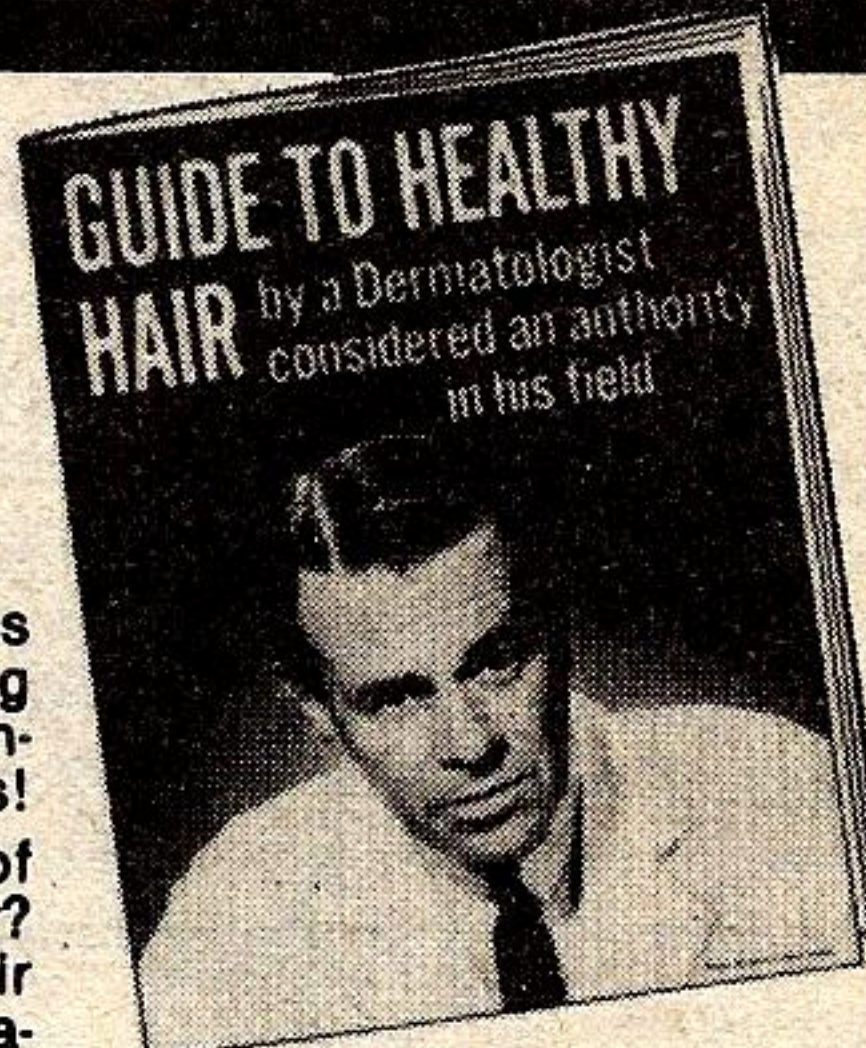
Several tests of strength opened the match, but Bruno proved superior in this department. Neither man could gain an advantage until Sammartino slammed Graham's head into the ringpost, opening up a cut. But the blood made Graham Angrier, he fought furiously and applied the 'Superstar Bearhug'. Bruno endured much pain and was eventually able to break free. Sammartino then took control of the match and began to kick Graham, who was laying on the canvas.

Sammartino looked to the crowd for advice and was tripped by Graham, who pinned Bruno while placing his foot on the ropes to become WWF champion. The match was over, but the fans almost rioted as Graham was given the gold belt. Graham had cheated to win the title. The fans would never forgive nor forget him for that.

(This series concludes in the next issue of Wrestling Revue)

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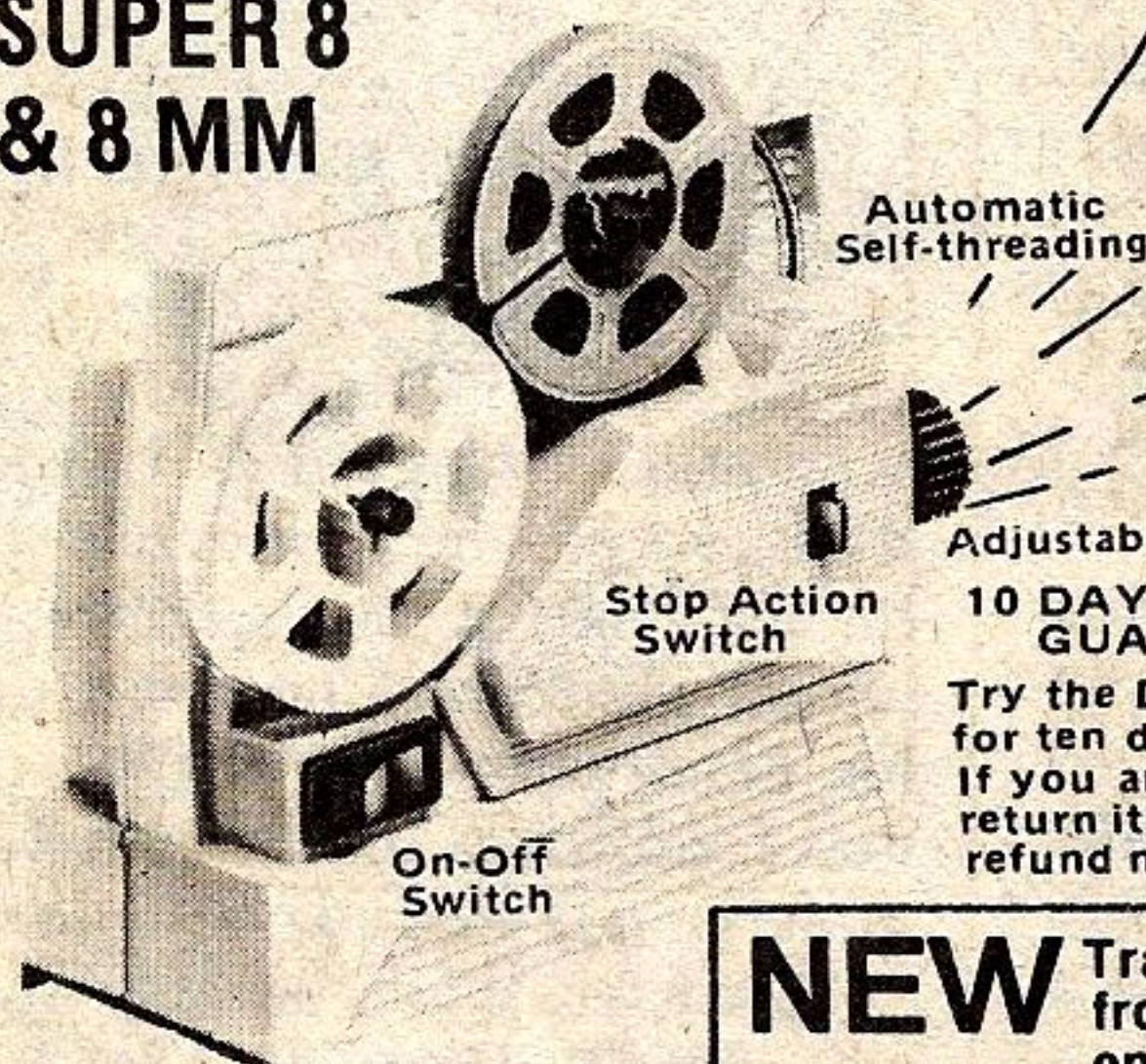
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One of the hottest young wrestlers in the country right now, Lawler makes his home in the Memphis, Tenn., area and grapples to packed houses throughout the Mid-South. He's an aggressive, abrasive mat man who wins bouts and upsets fans in the finest Gorgeous George or Freddie Blassie tradition.

Not that his features look anything like George or Blassie. They were both so blond that it was difficult to ignore the possibility of a peroxide bottle tucked away somewhere in their shaving kits. Lawler, on the other hand, with his mop of dark curly hair, full beard and grizzly chest looks like the typical prince of darkness science fiction writers are fond of spinning yarns about. Even his eyes can look black and piercing when he's in a deadly mood which is practically every time he climbs through the ropes.

He has the muscular physique expected of any serious, well-honed athlete in the heavyweight division, but the thing about him that really confirms the Blassie-George connection is his mouth, especially when he's talking about an opponent.

Give a listen as he sounds off about popular Jerry Jarrett: "The promoters around here must be loony bin graduates. Matching me against Jerry Jarrett is like pitting a bulldog against a prairie chicken. Jarrett is so skinny if he loses another five pounds we'll have to turn his name in to the missing person bureau. Seriously though I'm really scared about this upcoming bout. I'm afraid when Jarrett gets in the ring, he's gonna stand sideways and I won't be able to see him.

"You know, Mae West has an interesting saying, 'It's not the men in my life that counts; it's the life in my men!' Well, she'd take one peek at Jerry Jarrett and keep on walking. I don't want Jarrett's fans to worry about him though 'cause after I whip him, I'm gonna carry him back to the

dressing room, tuck him in for the night and give him a little teddy bear to cuddle up to. He just might be man enough to handle a teddy bear."

For the record, Jarrett is one of the smaller heavyweights in the business but also one of the more dedicated. He trains hard, stays in top condition and wins a high percentage of his matches. One of his favorite tag-team partners is tough Oriental, Tojo Yamamoto, and together they have held the Southern tag-team championship on a number of occasions over the years. But as far as Jerry Lawler is concerned, the only Jerry worthy of recognition in the ring is Lawler not Jarrett.



Jerry Lawler is a man of many words, but he usually backs up his boasts.

No one is granted immunity to Lawler's insults. One can figure he was disdainful to a Jerry Jarrett because Jarrett was comparatively young at the time without a superstar reputation. Therefore, Lawler was trying to psyche him out by playing on his relative inexperience against verbal abuse and hoping to shatter his concentration and force him to make mistakes in the ring. That's understandable and not bad strategy.

However, when he goes against a man the caliber of the fabulous Jackie Fargo, such reasoning doesn't hold water because Fargo has held superstar status for decades. Jackie has wrestled champions from all over the globe, has held a multitude of titles himself and has engaged in some of the longest and roughest feuds in the history of wrestling. Like Will Rogers said about Plato, "There ain't nothing much that he hadn't seen or at least heard tell of in his

day." But do you think Jerry Lawler showed any respect for all that experience?

Judge for yourself: "I consider it a great honor to be wrestling Jackie Fargo 'cause he's one of the all-time greats in this business. Why, he was already a big wrestling star when my granddaddy was just a little boy. He's forgotten more about wrestling than most men ever knew. In fact, at his age he forgets his name most of the time.

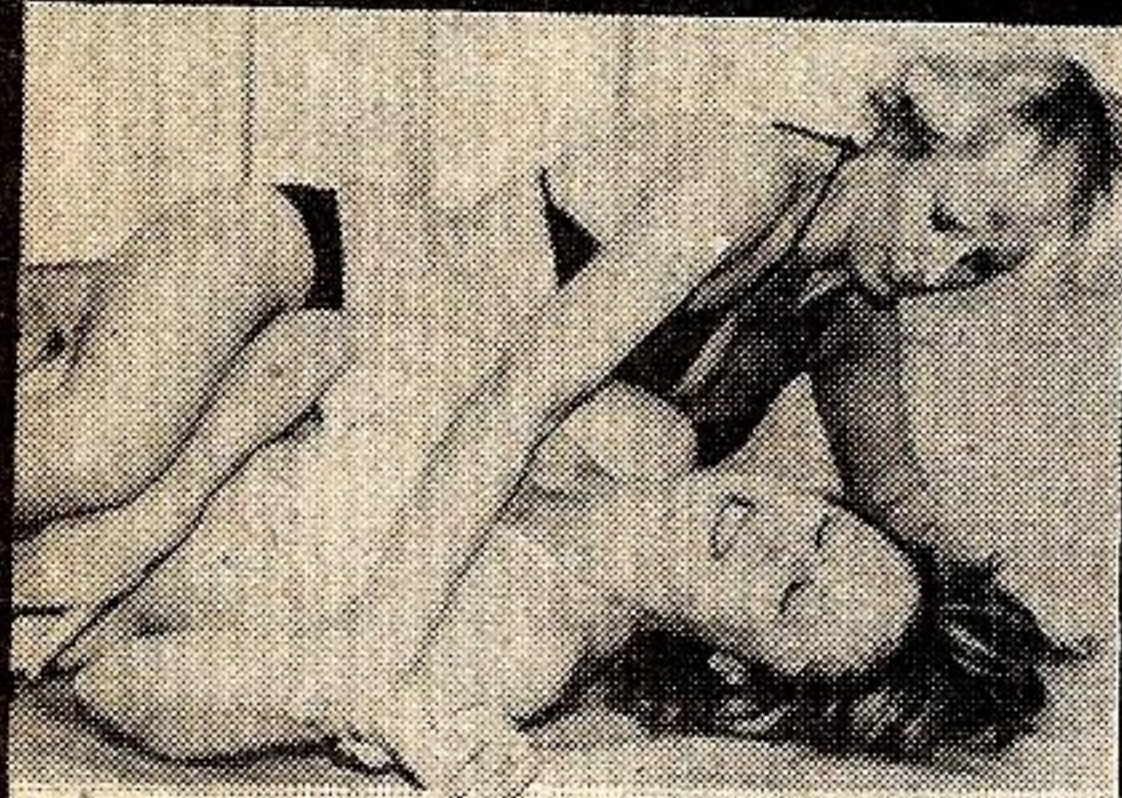
"I'm gonna have to write a letter to Washington and see if they can't raise the social security benefits so these old-timers like Fargo won't have to work so hard in their declining years to supplement their income. You know, most people I wrestle I have to lead out of the ring and back to the dressing room when I get finished with 'em. With Fargo, I have to lead him out of the dressing room and to the ring before we can even start the match!"

Okay, so Lawler badmouths the newcomers and the veterans alike. But when it's showdown time in the middle of the ring, how does he handle himself? Not badly. In a number of matches against both Jarrett and Fargo he managed to put his money where his mouth was effectively enough to split the victories evenly. He too has held half of the Southern tag-team championship with two different partners, and he's also wrestled for the world title several times but failed to capture it.

As a mat craftsman Lawler leaves a lot to be desired. Oh, he knows the usual baker's dozen of basic holds and can apply them as well as anybody. He's not an innovative wrestler though because he very rarely strays from the tried and true fundamental maneuvers, yet he makes up for any deficiency in technique with other well developed abilities and carefully wrought tactics.

For example, he's exercised himself into, pound for pound, one of the strongest competitors in the sport while at the same time refusing to allow himself to become so muscle-

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bound that he can't move quickly. Consequently he's blended better than average strength with unanticipated speed, a formidable combination for any athlete.

His aforementioned gift for insolent gab keeps running at full tilt throughout all his matches. It fast reflexes and stout sinews doesn't bowl them over, Lawler at least takes the wind out of opponents' sails with a line of guff that'd turn Don Rickles red with frustration. A fellow who's easily riled and loses control had better stay out of earshot of Lawler's gibes.

Just as important a weapon in his ring arsenal is his uncanny knack for stalling a furious match to an almost complete standstill. Whenever he's addled or winded or hurt, Jerry pulls one of his patented, hard-to-analyze tricks, and the action inches along snail-paced while his recuperative powers race to his rescue. All in all, figuring him out and calculating his defeat becomes a problematic assignment at best.

Outside the ring, Jerry Lawler continues to surprise and confound. He's a talented artist who's painted everything from storefront signs to his own original comic strip. Even in this area he sticks closely to his first love of wrestling. He designed and drew the display window for Al (Spider) Galento's All-Star School of Wrestling in Memphis. Done in bright red trim with illustrations of leaping grapplers on either side of the lettering, it caught the eye of passing drivers and pedestrians for blocks around.

His comic strip entitled 'The Patriot' chronicled the adventures of a masked wrestler who was searching for the unknown killer of his father, who had also been a pro wrestler. Barnstorming across the country this hooded avenger tackled the roughest villains of the mat by night and hunted for clues to his dad's slayer by day. Drawn in a realistic style, the Patriot actually met — and defeated — authentic, undisguised ring villains, many of whom complained that Lawler was doing on paper with his fictional masked man what he wouldn't have the courage to attempt in real life himself.

Jerry responded to these complaints by issuing a blanket challenge to all the Patriot's opponents. In addition to that he stepped up

production on the strip, sold it to national magazine and for months thereafter had his masked hero whipping these bona fide bad guys right and left in every edition to hit the stands. Eventually the Patriot captured the killer, and the strip phased out.

This Lawler seems quite a diversified fellow, eh? Well as Al Jolson would say, 'You ain't heard nothing yet! That is, you ain't heard nothing unless you happened to tune in a country-western music program on a Memphis television where you watched and listened to Jerry Lawler picking a guitar and crooning a song.

"Are you sure it was Jerry Lawler, the wrestler?" I asked the person who told me.

"Of course, I'm sure," she insisted. "I've seen him wrestle a hundred times. I reckon that boy can do about anything. Too bad he's so mean."

Although I've never seen Lawler sing, I have to accept it as gospel that he does simply because one does not argue with one's 93-year-old grandmother, especially when she's an ardent wrestling enthusiast who's followed the sport since Teddy Roosevelt was president and Frank Gotch was the world's champ.

So there you have a partial listing of Jerry Lawler's accomplishments. Remember the old nursery rhyme:

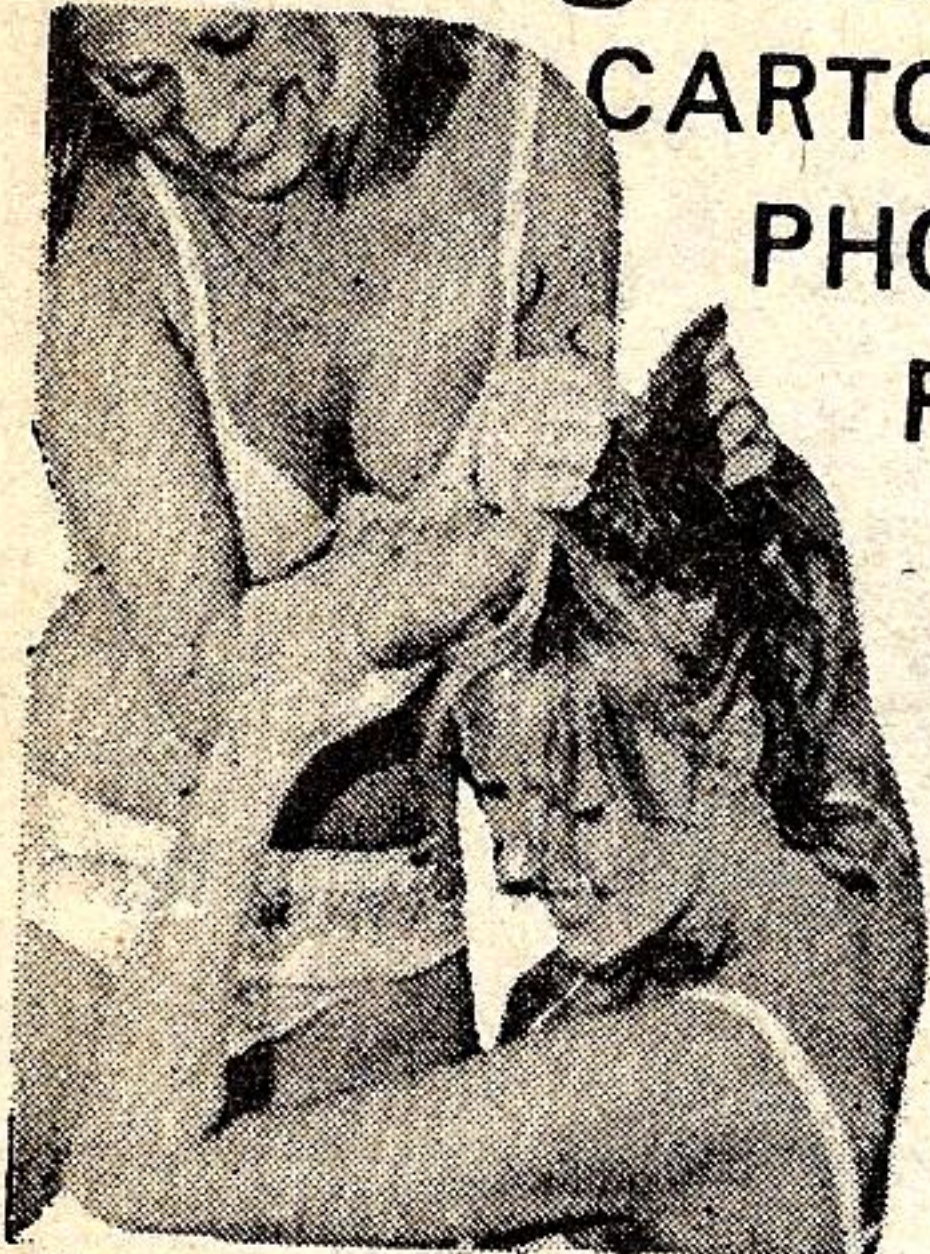
*Jack of all trades
And master of none
I can't sit down
Till my work's all done*

Jerry Lawler may not sit down for quite a spell with all the activities he has going. Or, on the other hand, he may suddenly decide he's rather be the ace of his trade instead of the jack. The latest surprising development in his career in his sudden and unexpected switch from heel to hero.

That's right. The same Jerry Lawler we've just been talking about bad-mouthing and bullying everybody in sight has recently reversed his tactics and can now be seen as Fargo and Jarrett's tag-team partner on occasion as he cleans up his act and mops up the mat with former comrades in villainy.

Who knows? If he ever concentrates all his professional talents and energies toward the goal of pure wrestling, Jerry Lawler just might become the first picture-drawing, guitar-plucking, ballad-singing heavyweight champ of the world.

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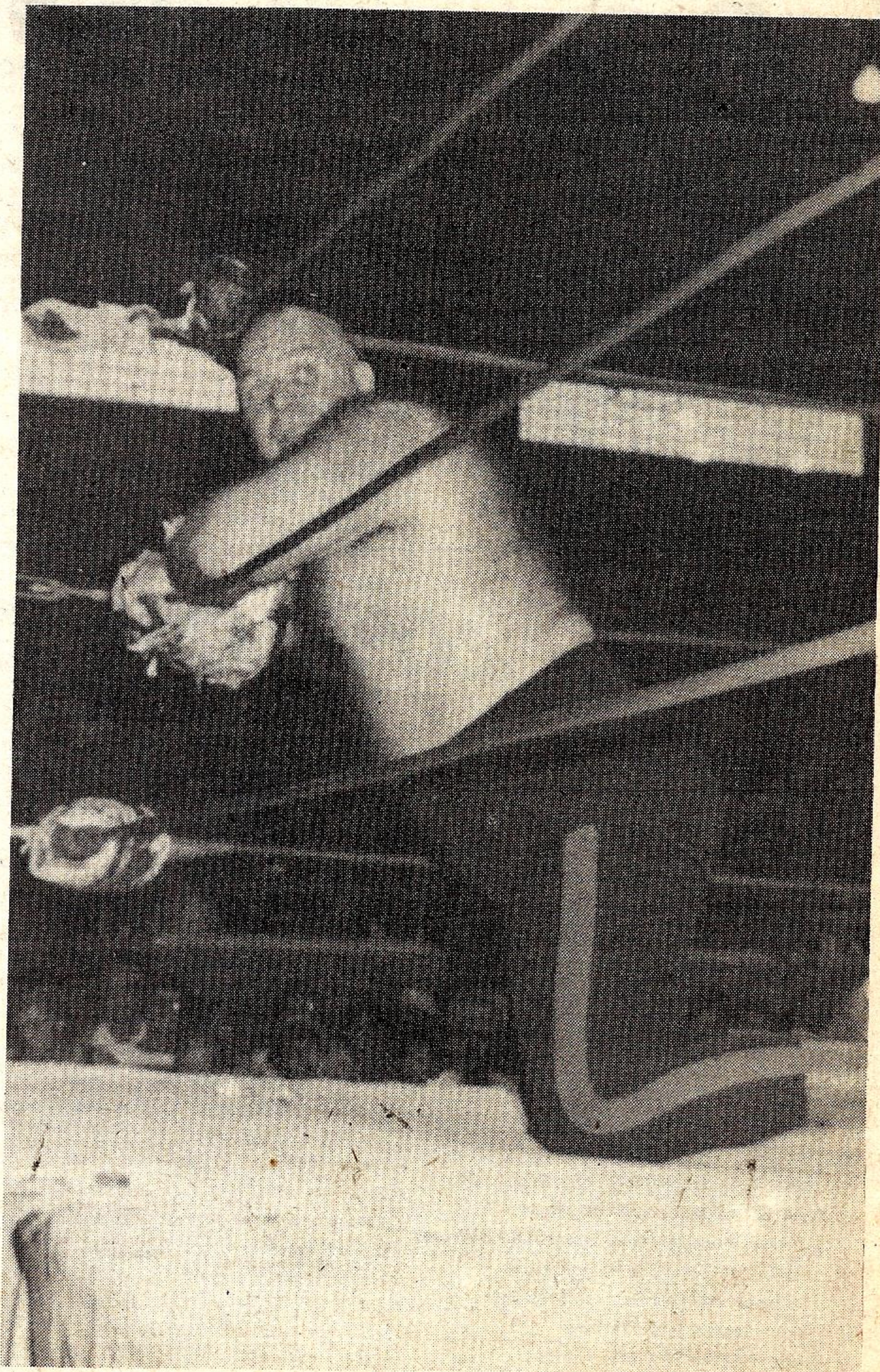
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WRESTLING REVUE

mailbag



George (The Animal) has aroused the ire of a Wrestling Revue reader and rightfully so. Hopefully, Steele will take time to answer this letter.

LIKES WWWF HISTORY

Dear Editor,

I buy your magazine every time it's on sale because there's no other magazine like Wrestling Guide: It is superb, very informative and your article on the history of the World Wide Wrestling Federation is fantastic.

Why not let Sandy Krebs do similar stories on the other two wrestling bodies and their champions? Congratulations also to Sandy Krebs for this very fine article. I'm looking forward to the other parts of this series.

Keep up the good work, you're better than all your competition.

Always,
A.L. Richmond

EDITOR'S NOTE — Thanks for the kind words. I'm passing your letter on to Sandy Krebs and hopefully we'll have a similar series on both the National Wrestling Alliance and American Wrestling Association.

MESSAGE TO STEELE

Dear Editor,

I have a very serious question to ask any member of the wrestling federations. Why must someone like George (The Animal) Steele go into the wrestling ring and pretend to be a mentally retarded adult?

There are so many different characters he could portray.

Make no mistake, I am not condemning wrestling. I have a severely retarded 28-year-old son. He really enjoys the matches and so does my husband.

I do not feel that the mentally retarded should be seen acting as George does.

If he were the parent of such a person, he might have more compassion for them. This sort of show should be stopped.

I am quite sure that George is a normal, intelligent human being for which he can thank God. But for his grace, Steele may have been retarded.

I wish George Steele all the luck in the world in his wrestling career, but please don't portray the retarded.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Samuel Lilly
653 West Franklin Street
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P.S. You can help in this cause, Mr. Editor.

EDITOR'S NOTE — As a rule, we don't publish the complete address of



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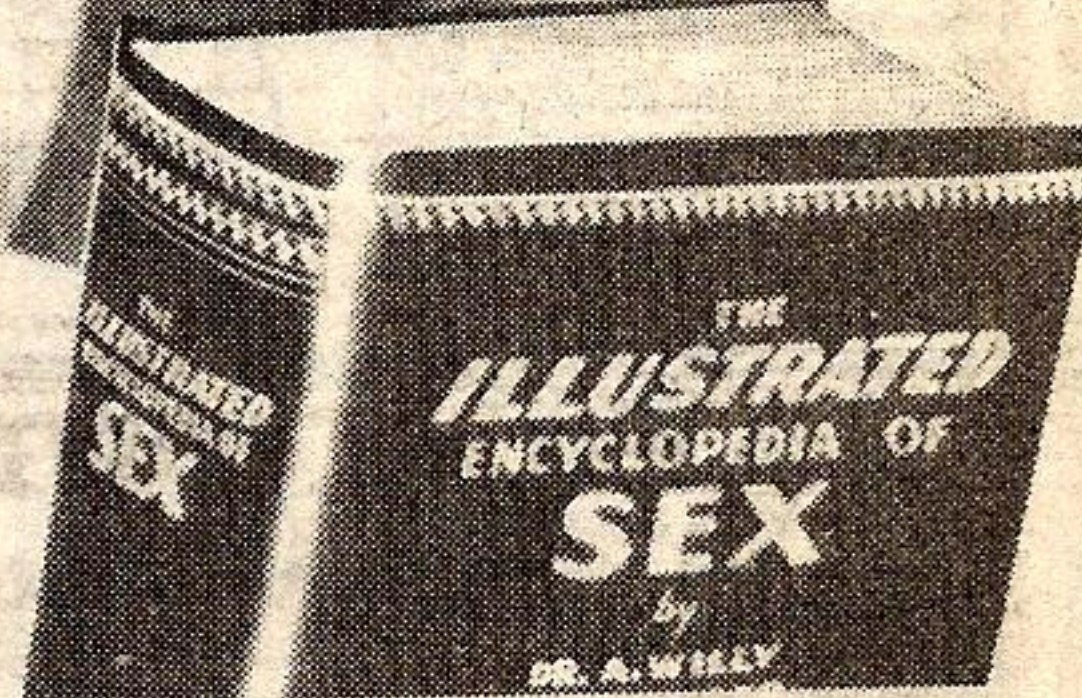
- Correcting male's premature climax to prolong sex act

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readers who write to us. However, we do concur with Mrs. Lilly in regards to George Steele's conduct.

We also feel no one can answer for Steele's conduct better than George Steele himself. Hopefully, he'll read this letter and take time to reply to Mrs. Lilly.

* * * * *

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Name — Tommy Savage

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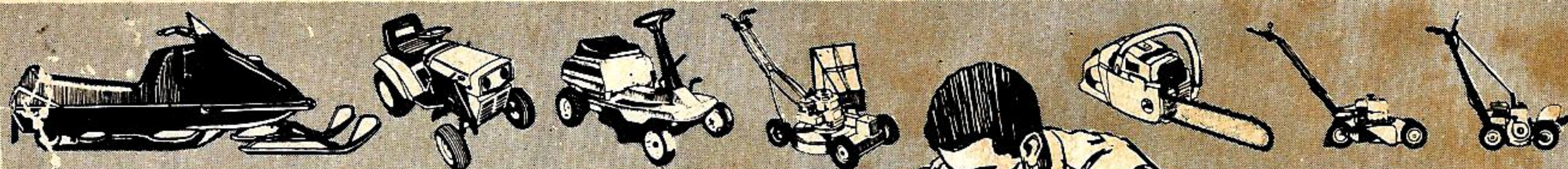
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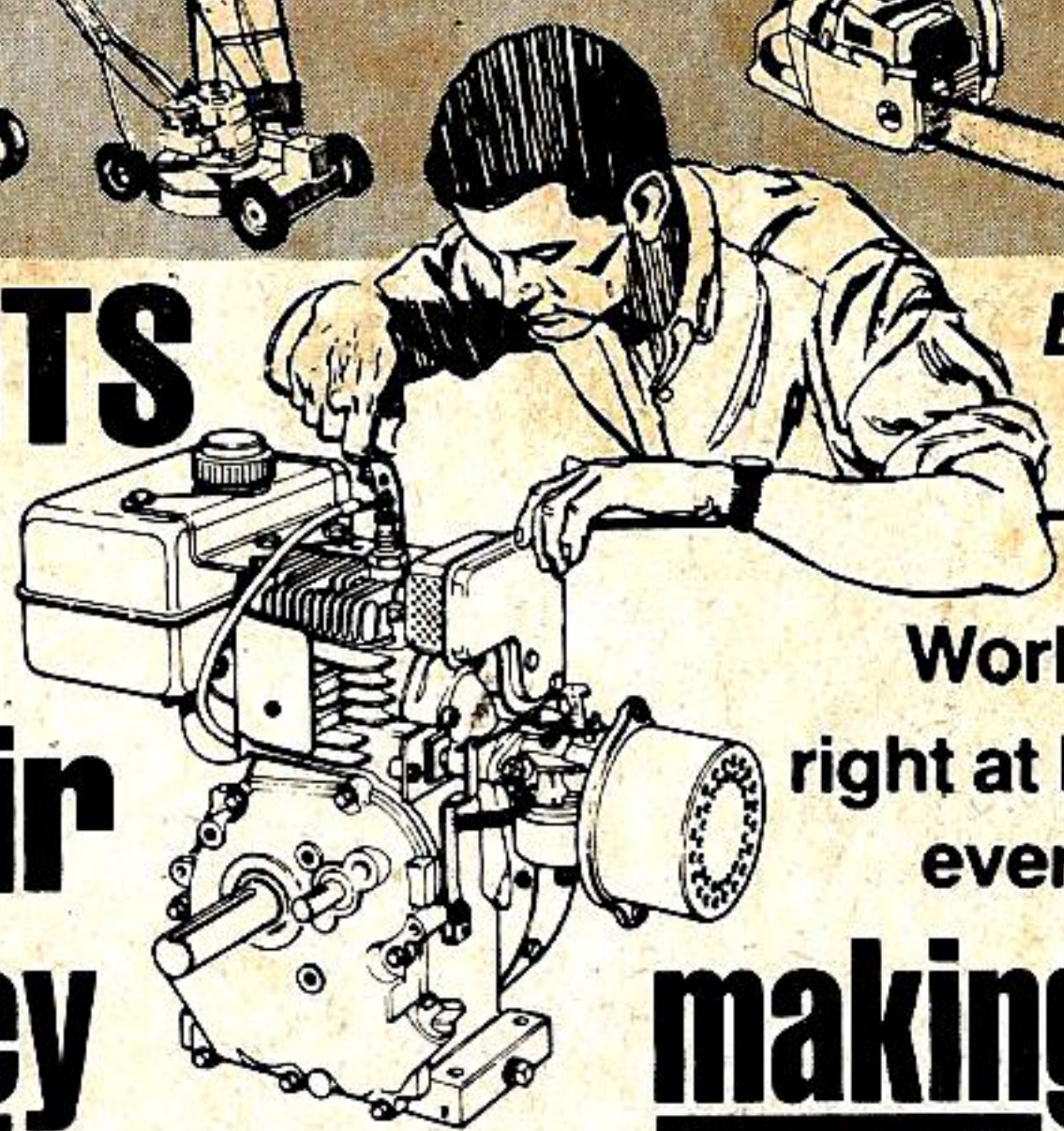
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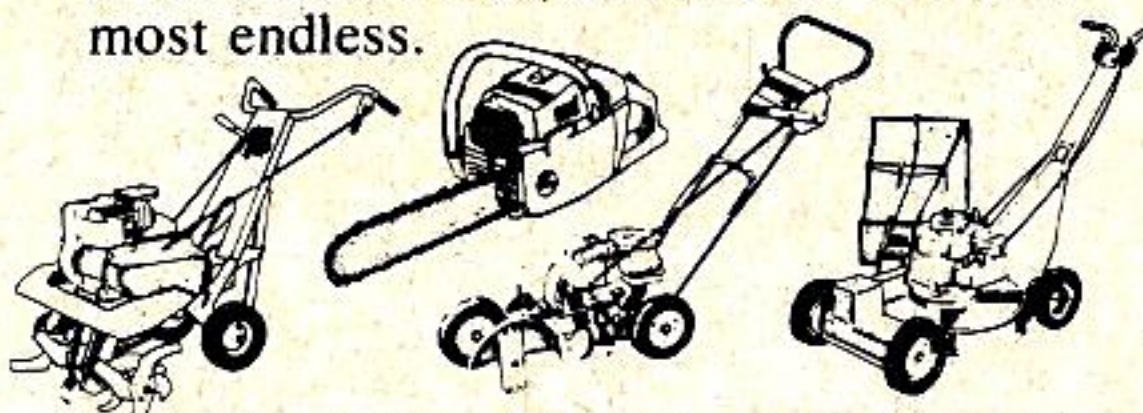
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